



*Schweppes*  
*Cup*

SEMI-FINAL SCHWEPPE'S WRU CUP

**CARDIFF**

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VERSUS

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**NEATH**

ST. HELEN'S GROUND, SWANSEA

SATURDAY, 8th APRIL, 1989  
KICK-OFF 3pm

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## Welcome to St. Helens

There is something very special about Schweppes Cup Day. It brings with it that feeling of great excitement and today's semi-final between Neath and Cardiff will be no exception. The followers of both these famous clubs will arrive believing that their particular club will make it to the final. Cardiff are renowned Cup fighters despite their indifferent form throughout the season, whilst Neath have steam-rolled on, crushing opposing teams in a record breaking season.

I extend a warm welcome to players, administrators and supporters of both teams to St. Helens today to witness what promises to be a game of high quality rugby.

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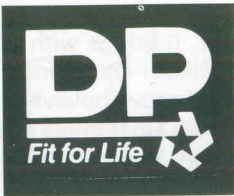
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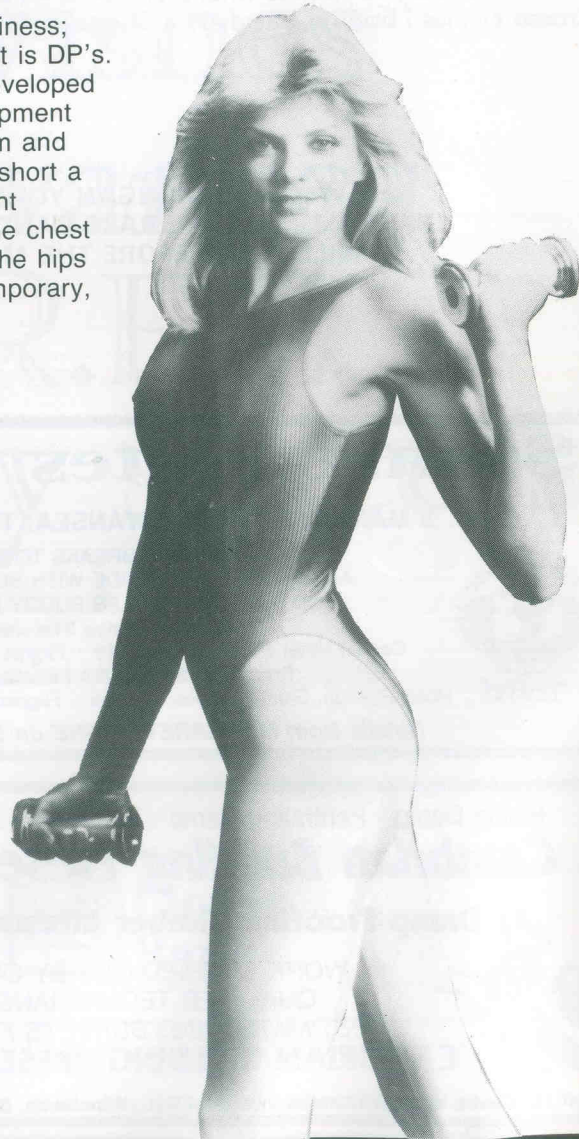


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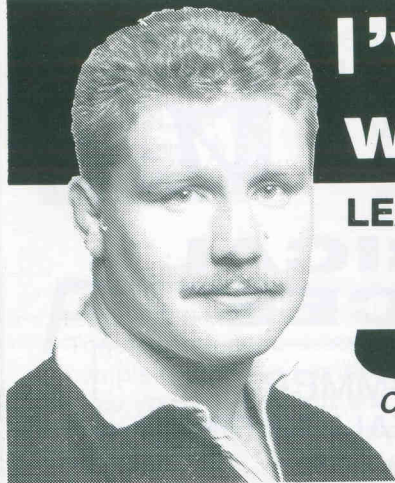
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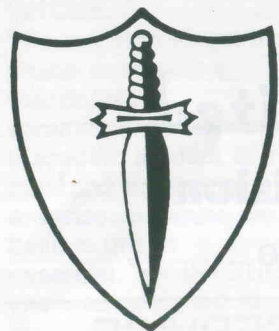
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## CARDIFF PEN PICS

**MICHAEL ANTHONY RAYER** — Birthplace: St. David's Hospital. Birthday: July 21, 1965. Height/Weight: 5ft 10½, 13 stone 2lb. Previous Club: Llandaff North. Employment: Sheet-metal worker. Career: Welsh Youth team captain, five caps at youth level. Llandaff North and Cardiff. Full back in last season's Schweppes Cup winning team.

**GERALD MICHAEL CORDLE** — Birthplace: Butetown, Cardiff. Birthday: September 29, 1960. Height/Weight: 6ft 1in; 13 stone 7lb. Employment: Alas, nothing — but Gerald would be prepared to have a go at anything. Career: A late starter to rugby football, not having played at all between Form One at school and youth rugby at 18½. Soccer was his game. Played youth rugby in Butetown before finally having a trial at Cardiff and after two seasons with the Rags, taking a first team chance.

**MARK GERARDE RING** — Birthplace: Cardiff. Birthday: October 15, 1962. Height/Weight: 6ft and 13 stone 4. Previous Club: St. Albans, Old Illydians Youth. Employment: Civil Servant.

**DAVID WYN EVANS** — Birthplace: England, in Wootton Bassett. Birthday: November 1, 1965. Height/Weight: 5ft 8½in; 11 stone 7. Previous Club: Aberaman Youth. Employment: Reading Management Science at Swansea.

**RAYMOND GILES** — Birthplace: Kenfig Hill. Birthday: January 15, 1963. Height/Weight: 5ft 6in, a slim 12½ stone. Previous Clubs: Cornelly Youth, Kenfig Hill, Aberavon. Employment: Food company sales manager. Career: Wales Youth Captain Wales B; Barbarian.

**JEFFREY WHITEFOOT** — Birthplace: Bedwas. Birthday: April 18, 1956. Height/Weight: Just under 6ft; 16 stone 4lb. Previous Clubs: Bedwas. Employment: Electrician. Career: East Wales Youth trial. Joined Cardiff 1978. Played three times for Wales B against France in 1982, 1983 and 1984 and was a replacement (the best place to be) when Wales played Roumania in Bucharest in 1983. Won his first cap as a replacement against Australia at Cardiff in 1984 and played in all four home internationals last season.

**IAN ROBERT GREENSLADE** — Birthplace: Bridgend. Birthday: February 2, 1967. Height/Weight: 6ft; 13½ stone. Previous Clubs: Bridgend Sports. Employment: Painter/decorator. Career: Under 21 cup winners and youth finalist with Cardiff.

**ALAN JOHN PHILLIPS** — Birthplace: Pyle. Birthday: August 21, 1955. Height/Weight: 5ft 10in and (down to) 14 stone. Previous Clubs: Cornelly Youth. Employment: Family Cleaning business. Career: Captain of Welsh Youth 1972. Fifteen in all. British Lion.

**STEPHEN WALTER BLACKMORE** — Birthplace: St. David's Hospital, Cardiff. Birthday: March 3, 1962. Height/Weight: Just about 6ft; 15½ stone. Previous Clubs: St. Peter's. Employment: auto-electrical engineer. Career: Cardiff Youth, Cardiff Athletic.

**MARK ANDREW ROWLEY** — Birthplace: Church Village. Birthday: November 18, 1964. Height/Weight: 6ft 7ins; 16 stone 7lb. Previous Clubs: Pontypridd. Employment:

Linesman with the South Wales Electricity Board. Career: Pontypridd. Crawshays.

**GARETH JOHN ROBERTS** — Birthplace: Pontlliw. Birthday: January 15, 1959. Height/Weight: 6ft 2½ins; 14 stone 7lb. Previous Clubs: Pontardulais, Swansea. Employment: Pharmacist. Career: Wales, Barbarians.

**MARK WALTER EDWARDS** — Birthplace: Senghenydd. Birthday: March 26, 1963. Height/Weight: 6ft 6ins; 17 stone. Previous Clubs: Senghenydd, Cross Keys.

**STEVE CRANDON** — Birthplace: St. David's Hospital, Cardiff. Birthday: November 20, 1976. Height/Weight: 5ft 8in; 13½ stone. Previous Clubs: Penarth, Newbridge. Employment: Sales rep. Career: Welsh Secondary Schools Grand Slam side. Wales B Cap 1985.

**RICHIE GRAHAM COLLINS** — Birthplace: Cardiff. Birthday: March 3, 1962. Height/Weight: 6ft 1in; about 14 stone. Previous Clubs: Pontypridd, Newport, South Wales Police. Employment: Policeman. Career: 11 caps.

**CHRISTOPHER LIAM COLLINS** — Birthplace: Cardiff. Birthday: March 6, 1959. Height/Weight: 6ft; 16 stone. Previous Clubs: Loughborough, Bridgend. Employment: Head of P.E. Department at Cardinal Newman School, Pontypridd. Career: Welsh Schools Under 19; Welsh Students.

**TIMOTHY FRANCIS PETER CROTHERS** — Birthplace: Fairwater, Cardiff. Birthday: October 10, 1960. Height/Weight: Just under 6ft 2in; 15½ stone. Employment: Engineer with Wales Gas. Career: One town, one club man.

**OWEN MORGAN GOLDING** — Birthplace: Dinas Powis. Birthday: February 26, 1959. Height/Weight: 5ft 11ins; 14 stone 6lb. Previous Clubs: Dinas Powis, S. Glam. Institute. Employment: Personnel officer with Bass Wales and West. Career: Welsh Schools International. Captain of Welsh and British Colleges.

**MALCOLM DACEY** — Birthplace: Bonymaen, Swansea. Birthday: July 12, 1960. Height/Weight: 5ft 11ins; 12 stone. Previous Clubs: Bonymaen Youth, Swansea. Employment: Company director. Career: Four Welsh Youth Caps, Four Wales B Caps, 15 full internationals (including World Cup Squad), British Lion, Barbarian.

**ROBERT NORSTER** — Birthplace: Ebbw Vale. Birthday: June 23, 1957. Height/Weight: 6ft 5ins; 16st 4lb. Previous Clubs: Abertillery. Employment: Marketing Manager. Career: Wales International 34 Caps, British Lions, Barbarians.

**ROGER BIDGOOD** — Birthplace: Caerphilly. Birthday: September 15, 1965. Height/Weight: 6ft; 14st 4lb. Previous Clubs: Glam. Wanderers Youth; Pontypool; Cardiff. Employment: Fireman. Career: Wales Youth; Wales 'B'; Final trial for Wales; Barbarians.

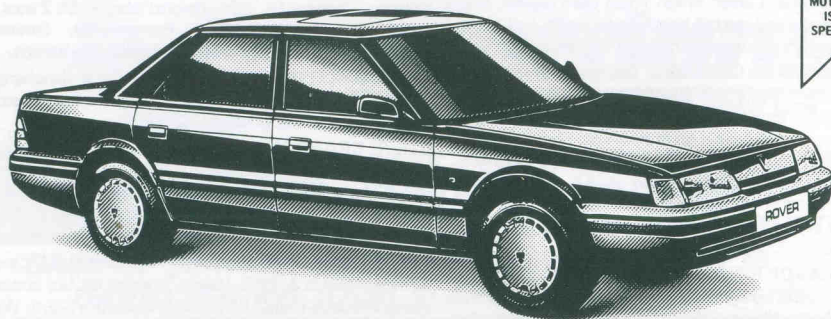
**ANDREW BOOTH** — Birthplace: Swansea. Birthday: December 8, 1967. Height/Weight: 5ft 10ins; 12st 10lb. Previous Clubs: Neath. Employment: Swansea University. Career: Captained Welsh U15; Captained Welsh U18; Welsh Student Cap; Wales U21 Cap.



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## NEATH R.F.C. PEN PICS

**KEVIN PHILLIPS** — (Captain) Hooker Kevin Phillips comes from Pembrokeshire. Born 15th May, 1961. Kevin is single and a farmer.

**PAUL THORBURN** — is 26 years of age and the current captain of the Welsh national side. From full back he has scored over 260 points this season. Educated at Hereford Cathedral School and Swansea University he works as a sales representative.

**ALAN EDMUNDS** — Up until today's game Alan Edmunds has scored 34 tries this season. Twenty-eight years old he was educated at Neath Grammar School and won five caps for the Welsh Youth. A carpenter by trade.

**COLIN LAITY** — comes from Helston in Cornwall and began his playing career with Neath whilst a student at the South Glamorgan institute. A 'B' cap for Wales this season he is also a Barbarian. At 23 years of age Laity works as a financial consultant.

**ALLAN BATEMAN** — was a welcome addition to the Neath squad when he joined this year from Maesteg. A Laboratory Technician he was educated at Maesteg Comprehensive School. A Welsh Youth cap.

**CHRIS HIGGS** — was a star of Welsh Youth rugby last season and has quickly established himself as a favourite at the Gnoll. Barely 20 years of age and works as a bank clerk.

**PAUL WILLIAMS** — joined Neath from Newbridge and is currently second top points scorer for the season. Twenty-five years old he is employed as an electrician by British Coal and was educated at Senghennydd Comprehensive School.

**CHRIS BRIDGES** — at 20 years of age is constantly moving up the rankings of Welsh scrum halves and has gained honours at Youth and under 19 level. Educated at Bryncelynog Comprehensive School he is employed in the construction industry.

**BRIAN WILLIAMS** — is another Pembrokeshire farmer in the Neath squad. A regular in the Pembrokeshire County side. Twenty-seven year old he holds a Wales 'B' cap.

**JEREMY PUGH** — comes from Built Wells where he was born 28 years ago. Capped twice for Wales he has captained Breconshire to successive county championships. A qualified chef.

**HUW RICHARDS** — at 29 years of age capped for Wales. He also captained the Merit Table XV. A lock forward he stands at 6ft 4ins and weighs 16½ stones. Huw is a farmer.

**GARETH LLEWELLYN** — appears today at lock but is equally adept in the number eight jersey. Just 20 years of age he is a member of the national squad, has been capped at Youth and under 19 levels. A fitter and turner with British Steel he was educated at Bryntirion Comprehensive School at Bridgend.

**PHIL PUGH** — made a late start to his playing season following injury. At 29 years of age he has played for Wales 'B'. 6ft 4ins tall. A coalface worker Phil was educated at Llangatwg Comprehensive School.

**MARK JONES** — is 6ft 5ins in height, his speed and strength have brought him 23 tries this season. Mark comes from Tredegar and works as a financial consultant.

**DAVID PICKERING** — captained Wales on 8 occasions and has 23 caps. A company director, he was educated at Cwrt Sart, Dwr-y-Felin and U.W.I.S.T. 28 years old, David Pickering is also a Barbarian he has won caps at under 15, 16 and 19 for the Welsh Schools.

**DAVID JOSEPH** — holds a 'B' cap as a prop forward as well as being a Welsh Youth international. Twenty-five years old Dai starts a new job on Monday as a sales representative. Educated at Sandfields Comprehensive School.

**LLOYD ISAAC** — 20 years of age. International honours have already come his way at Youth and Schools levels. Educated at Llangatwg Comprehensive School, Neath he is serving an apprenticeship as a welder.

**PAUL JACKSON** — has represented Wales Youth and the under 21 side. he runs his own carpentry business and was educated at Dwr-y-Felin School. 17 stones and standing at 6ft 3ins.

**GERALD WILLIAMS** — A flanker on the open side he has also represented Welsh Schools at under 15 and 19. An electrician in the construction industry he was educated at Morriston Comprehensive School and is now 20 years of age.

**STEVE POWELL** — is Neath's longest serving player. At 29 years old Steve Powell looks as though he could go on playing forever adding many more to the 338 appearances he has made in the Neath jersey.

**JONATHAN GRIFFITHS** — Equally capable at full back or wing threequarter he has played in 36 of the club's matches this season so far. He is 24 years of age and works as a toolmaker with a local company.



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21st January 1989

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## CARDIFF

Colours: Blue and Black

- 15 MARK RAYER
- 14 GERALD CORDLE
- 13 GERAINT JOHN
- 12 MARK RING
- 11 STEVE FORD
- 10 DAVID EVANS
- 9 ANDREW BOOTH
- 1 JEFF WHITEFOOT
- 2 ALAN PHILLIPS
- 3 STEVE BLACKMORE
- 4 HOWARD STONE
- 5 ROBERT NORSTER (Capt)
- 6 RICHIE COLLINS
- 8 MARK EDWARDS
- 7 GARETH ROBERTS

Replacements: I. Greenslade, A. Williams, T. Crothers,  
R. Jones, R. Giles, S. Crandon

Referee: Mr. DEREK BEVAN, Clydach

Touch Judges:

Mr. R. G. DAVIES, Mr. CHRIS JONES

Standby Touch Judge: Mr. A. M. JONES

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Cefnwr         | Full Back    |
| Asgell Dde     | Right Wing   |
| Canolwr Dde    | 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      |

## NEATH

Colours: Black with Maltese Cross

- 15 PAUL THORBURN
- 14 CHRIS HIGGS
- 13 COLIN LAITY
- 12 ALAN BATEMAN
- 11 ALUN EDMUNDS
- 10 PAUL WILLIAMS
- 9 CHRIS BRIDGES
- 1 BRIAN WILLIAMS
- 2 KEVIN PHILLIPS (Capt)
- 3 JEREMY PUGH
- 4 HUW RICHARDS
- 5 GARETH LLEWELLYN
- 6 PHIL PUGH
- 8 MARK JONES
- 7 DAVID PICKERING

Replacements: D. Joseph, P. Jackson, S. Powell,  
L. Isaac, G. Williams, J. Griffiths



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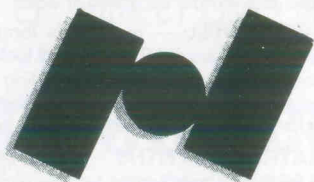


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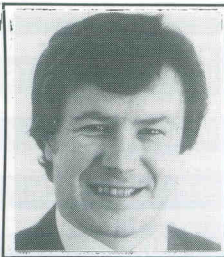
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## Five Times in Eight Years

by JOHN BILLOT (Western Mail)

Cardiff can be guaranteed to rise to the big occasion, especially when it involves the Schweppes Cup. One sniff of Cup action galvanises them like a gun dog. Despite their dismal playing record this season, they have battled into the semi-final stage yet again.

Not that this achievement means a great deal when their opponents are analysed. That is not to belittle the endeavours of the small teams who have opposed them, but Cardiff have avoided crossing swords with any of the big guns.

Neath fans, of course, reckon the Arms Park team's luck has run out today, and the objective view by the uncommitted in all probability will endorse that opinion. Form is always an indicator, though it has been known to trap a few along the way, as England, fresh from trouncing the French at Twickenham, found when they came to Cardiff.

Undeniably, the form team today are Neath. The fearsome Black Raiders of Welsh rugby are racing towards the double target of Welsh club champions and Cup winners. It is a burning ambition at the Gnoll and Cardiff will recognise that they have something special to do in the turmoil of today's contest.

Of course, they did it two years ago, as their supporters are quick to point out. Neath were firm favourites on the same St. Helen's pitch. But Cardiff took it 16-6 — and with Jonathan Davies as Neath's fly half in that season.

So form can be a misleading guide in one-off cup situations — as Neath once found when they slumped at home to Glamorgan Wanderers, and Swansea this season discovered to their cost at Glamorgan Wanderers' ground. Underdogs have a nasty habit of slipping the leash and inflicting a nasty nip to the pride of the giants.

No-one has nipped the Gnoll team on their home patch this season, but they have proved vulnerable on a few occasions away from their home comforts and this gives Cardiff reason for hope. Robert Norster's team probably have undergone hypnosis to erase from their memories the result of their meeting with Neath last September, when the Gnoll crowd saw their side triumph by a record 49-10 margin against the Blue-and-Blacks.

We can imagine an old campaigner like Alan Phillips, Cardiff through and through, explaining that to the younger members of the team. "That was a cosmetic operation, boys — we let them think they're that good just in case we meet them in the Cup later on!" Anyway, that will be his story . . .

Phillips was the captain when Cardiff shocked Neath out of the Cup two years ago. "Everything went just as we planned," he recalled. "We knew we could do it." This is the confidence necessary for any team to succeed at the top and Cardiff have been doing just that in the Cup for quite a while now.

They have won the Cup five times in the last eight years and only Llanelli have a better record of victories. Neath have had their ups and downs after winning it in its inaugural season of 1971-72, and it slipped away from them in that sensational semi-final in 1987 and then in last year's even more sensational Cup Final.

So the Blacks will be looking for a significant change of fortune while Cardiff give their complete attention to the job of scrummaging their opponents into all sorts of uncomfortable attitudes. Cardiff also have to give attention to the little matter of slowing down those tearaway Neath forwards who all seem to live life on the field at 100mph — and probably do the same off the field.

Cardiff have been delighted to recruit Andrew Booth from the Gnoll team as a young scrum half of outstanding potential to take over from veteran Ray Giles in the natural course of progression. The return of Mark Ring also has been cause for rejoicing in the Cardiff camp, and the prolonged absence of this unpredictable genius has handicapped coach Gwilym Treharne's attacking plans.

The best formula for Cardiff has been to rifle the ball wide and fast to release their wings, with Gerald Cordle and Steve Ford topping 50 tries between them. It might be observed by Gnoll fans that their wings have done even better than that! Who said comparisons are odious?

But getting to the final is what today's event is all about and tactics generally are directed at reducing all risks to a minimum, at least until one team can establish an unassailable lead. Even if the ball is not too often wafted in the direction of the running backs, there is seldom any lack of intensive action and incident.

Cardiff's new vice-captain, Michael Rayer, has established a reputation for consistency in all aspects of play, while David Evans, called up by Wales for the first time this season, is an extremely perceptive footballer.

Norster's lineout skill obviously plays a vital part in Cardiff's game plan, and their scrummage is expected to demand respect. They used their forward power to overcome the Cup challenges of Pyle 25-9, Amman United 54-0, Aberavon Quins 24-15 and then those renowned village cup-fighters Llanharan 25-13 in their earlier rounds.

Now it is the Big One. Neath again — and Cardiff fans are keeping their fingers crossed that the old 'hypnosis treatment' won't wear off too soon!



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## Pressure, Speed & Commitment

Malcolm Rees, South Wales Evening Post

Pressure, Speed and Commitment are the key words in Neath's triumphant march through this season. And those words have taken them to a world club try scoring record and the position as one of the top sides in Britain.

The players are given plenty of freedom in every game, freedom to roam the field and pick up on every mistake made by the opposition. And errors are frequent in opposing teams who find themselves unable to cope with all the engulfing approach of the Welsh All Blacks.

In the last quarter of most games fitness takes over as teams wilt under the Neath pressure and there is often a flood of tries in this period. When one considers that Neath averages almost seven tries a game you can see the importance of those three words.

A visit to the Gnoll can be a sobering experience for any side as two recent visitors, Newbridge and Maesteg, discovered to their cost. Newbridge in particular came as one of only three Welsh club sides to beat the Gnoll team this season, albeit by just one point.

The game ended with a 70 point margin and a scoreline that read 13 tries to nil. Just four days later Maesteg walked into a 13 try onslaught as they were ruthlessly dismissed 64 to nil.

And the clear message from manager Ron Waldron is simple, "we have not seen the best of these players yet."

Waldron was the man given the task of stepping into the outsize shoes of Brian Thomas who had dragged the team from the doldrums of the start of the eighties and turned it into one of the most efficient rugby machines in British Rugby.

In the six seasons since Thomas took the helm the drive to develop the best club in Britain has never paused. The management team has put together one of the most talented young squads in Wales with an average age of just 22.

Many of the players are still teenagers but they have shown skills which have given a lie to the claims that Wales is a desert for talent at the moment.

Early in his reign Brian Thomas said Neath would never face the situation of having to rebuild a side after mass retirements. He made it clear that no squad member was guaranteed a place the following season and the club has lived up to this philosophy with only a handful of the current squad on the books five years ago.

Men like Barry Clegg who had a new lease of life at the Gnoll and Mike Richards, the backbone of the pack for years, have gone but in their place are players of tremendous potential including 19 year old lock Gareth Llewellyn already knocking on the Welsh door, Hooker Lloyd Isaac, in the Under 21 squad, and prop John Davies, a Cardiganshire farmer who is one of the fastest men in the Squad.

And there is Chris Bridges a dynamic scrum half who has developed into a fine talent and must be another future Welsh player.

It is the young pack which has laid the foundation of the teams success this season and any side which can boast a front row which is as fast as the back row will take some handling.

At the heart of it all has been skipper Kevin Phillips. He has been playing inspired rugby this season and has proved to be an outstanding captain. He has generated such a head of steam among his team at times that their authority has been staggering.

He has also brought a new confidence to the side, demonstrated many times recently when penalty kicks have been ignored in favour of a forward drive. Phillips also knows his way to the try line with seven under his belt so far. In fact forty per cent of Neath's tries have come from the forwards and what other Welsh club can boast of having every member of the squad with tries to his name.

The cup is an important competition to Neath. They were the first winners way back in 1972 and their supporters, players and management believe it is time the trophy was back at the Gnoll. In recent seasons the club has come close and they know that today's opponents have twice been their stumbling block in recent seasons.

It was Cardiff who beat them in the 1984 final and Cardiff again who put them out in the semi-final in 1987 by 16 points to 6. The Capital city club has a tremendous reputation in the cup and Neath know they will have a tough fight and recent massive victories over Cardiff have no bearing on the game.

Last season Neath reached the final only to be convincingly beaten by Llanelli 28 points to 13. A replay of that final is the aim of the Welsh All Blacks but they will take nothing for granted today.



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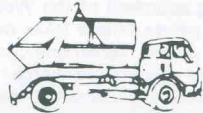
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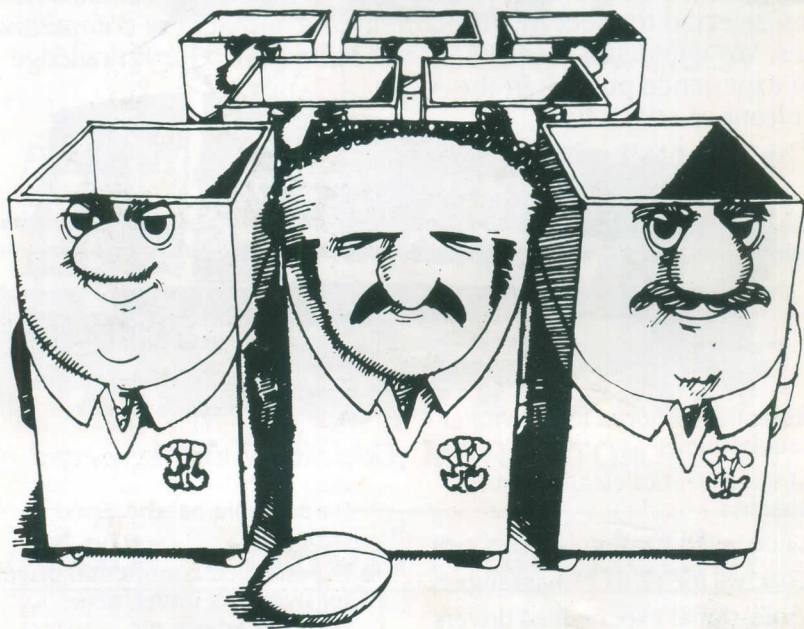
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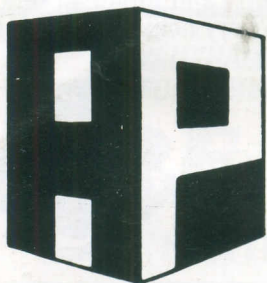
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