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## rthe scarlets

A detailed account of last season's playing record has been produced as a supplement to "The Scarlets", the official history of Llanelli RFC, which was published in November, 1986. Copies can be obtained from the Supporters' Club Shop, price 20p. Copies are also available of the supplement for season 1986-1987. The supplements are supplied free with copies of the book, price £9.50.

A limited number of copies of the cartoons of famous Llanelli rugby players which are published in the book can also be purchased at the Supporters' Club Shop, price 25p.

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## N TOUCH

#### The editorial page

The season can hardly be said to be petering out tamely at Stradey. Indeed, the visit of Cardiff is one of the highlights of any campaign. The Blues-and-Blacks have had, by their standards, a season of rather modest achievement-but they are always a side to be reckoned with, as they demonstrated a fortnight ago by gaining an emphatic victory over Neath at the Arms Park. No doubt, the means by which that success was accomplished will be the subject of eager enquiry when the players get together after the match. That Cardiff are especially welcome visitors to Stradey goes without saying. Though they are not engaged in this year's Cup Final, they have a magnificent record in the 'eighties of having won the trophy five times, and their engagements with the Scarlets are always notable for their skill and prowess. We wish all success to Robert Norster and David Young, who go with Ieuan Evans on the British Lions' tour, and this is also an opportunity to convey our best wishes to Alan Phillips, who is retiring after a long career in which he has proved himself a peerless hooker and an inspiring leader.

The season comes to an exciting climax at the National Ground next Saturday. The Scarlets have already secured one major accomplishment by carrying off the Merit Table title, and we look forward to their assault on what would be a memorable 'double', if it can be achieved, against Neath in the Cup Final. The All Blacks will no doubt prove formidable opponents, but the Scarlets have many fine performances to their credit this season and we are sure they will steel themselves for one more steadfast and purposeful bid for glory. It has been an eventful campaign in which the captain, Phil Davies, and the entire squad of players have worked tirelessly for success.

As this is the last club programme of the season, perhaps it is an appropriate occasion on which to confirm the identity of the seventeen famous Llanelli players, of different eras, whose photographs appear on the front cover. The seven players on the left-hand 'upright' are Harry Bowen, C. B. Nicholl, R. T. Gabe, Albert Jenkins, Lewis Jones, Carwyn James and Delme Thomas. Those who form the right-hand 'upright' are Fred Margrave, Owen Badger, Tom Evans, Bill Clement, R. H. Williams, Barry John and Phil Bennett. In the centre of the 'cross-bar' are Ivor Jones, Ernie Finch and Watcyn Thomas.

This is the 25th club programme of the season, and the 'Gallery' feature on a later page has now run through the list of the Scarlets' international players up to the turn of the century. The next era, between 1900 and the first world war, begins with the career of a player who made an enormous contribution to the fortunes of both the Llanelli and Cardiff clubs - R. T. Gabe, who played in three Welsh triple crown teams, as a Llanelli player in 1902, and for Cardiff in 1905 and 1908. Although always known as Rhys Gabe, his first name was, in fact, registered as Rees, and his surname was Gape - a well-known name in his home village, Llangennech, in the 19th century. A rugby writer said of him: "He had striking individuality - a style all his own. He ran very straight, had a quick, deceptive swerve, and it was very hard to stop him." We hope the present generation of 'scarlet runners' will emulate his deeds next Saturday.

**GARETH HUGHES** 





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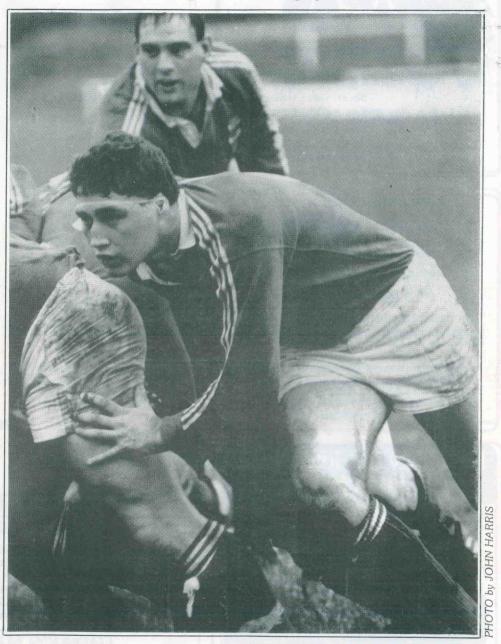
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	No.	
Jeff Bird	15	Mike Rayer (Capt.)
Andrew Morgan	14	Gerald Cordle
Domenico Setaro	13	Geraint John
Simon Davies	12	A. N. Other
Michael Holding	11	Ceri Thomas
Mike Lewis	10	David Evans
Mark Douglas	9	Andrew Booth
Ricky Evans	1	<b>Andrew Williams</b>
Errol Price	1 2 3 4	Alan Phillips
Sean Gale	3	Steve Blackmore
Andrew Bateman	4	Stuart Roy
Anthony Copsey	5	Simon Crothers
Ieuan Mathews	6	Tim Crothers
Julian Williams	5 6 8 7	<b>Howard Stone</b>
A. N. Other	7	Richie Collins

REPLACEMENTS

A. N. Other
Mark Evans

Ray Giles Matthew Hadley

Referee: Winston Jones (Gwaun-cae-gurwen)

### TOUCH RUGBY CURTAIN RAISER

Ysgol y Castell (Kidwelly) meet Dewi Sant (Llanelli) in the final of the first local touch rugby competition. Most of the Llanelli and district primary schools took part in the competition, which is sponsored by Trinity College, Carmarthen. Touch rugby will be developed on a national level next year, and it is hoped that thousands of children (including girls) will be attracted to the game.

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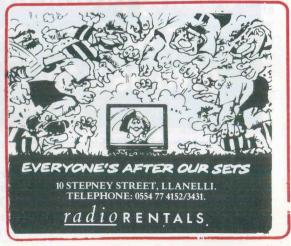
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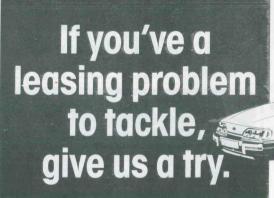
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### GALLERY

### A series introducing Llanelli's rugby internationals



No. 25 William (Bill) Morris

**Forward** 

Born: Llanelli, 27th October, 1869.

Died: Llanelli 4th November, 1946,

aged 77.

Home: Gelli-deg

Capped: v. S.I. 1896; E. 1897.

• Nick-named 'Bill Cute', he was an uncle of the boxer 'Gipsy' Daniels.

A plasterer.

- W. J. Townsend Collins (in 'Rugby Recollections', 1948): Though not a giant in height, he had a giant's strength in the scrummage, and science withal. Resolution, clever footwork, and a capacity to be always on the ball, made him one of the great forwards."
- It has long been thought that Morris went North to sign for the Manningham club after his international appearances but this does not appear to have been the case. He travelled North and was nearly killed in a gas explosion at his lodgings on his first night: this occurrence may have helped persuade him to return home! There is no record of him playing in the Northern Union, and he certainly played rugby for Llanelli at a later date.

#### LLANELLI VETERANS

Llanelli were beaten 14 - 0 by Bristol in the final of the West of England Veterans' Rugby Tournament at Weston-super-Mare last weekend. In earlier rounds, Llanelli defeated Taunton, Weston-super-mare and (in the semi-finals) Bath. The Llanelli team comprised Gwyn Ashby, Peter Griffiths, Anthony Griffiths, Peter Hopkins, Tony Evans, Kevin Thomas, Selwyn Williams, Charles Thomas, Howard Thomas, Kerry Townley, Roger Powell, Mike Griffiths, Richard Bevington, Barry Llewelyn, Denis Davey.

Next Friday, on the eve of the Cup Final in Cardiff, the Llanelli R.F.C. Old Players' Association hold their annual dinner in the clubhouse at Stradey, with

another veteran, Ray Gravell, as speaker.

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## UP AND UNDER

### Some rugby reflections by Harry Davies

In more than one sense, these have been stirring times for the Scarlets, and in particular for their Davieses, of whom no fewer than four have played for Wales this season, namely Phil, Nigel, Carwyn and, of course Jonathan, who is now no longer with us. The achievements of this quartette have been a particular source of pride to those of us who can claim to be their namesakes.

According to my researches in the W.R.U. handbook and "The Scarlets", the history compiled by the editor of this match programme, it brings to a total of fifteen the number of Davieses who have played for this club and for their country - a record that excels even that of Llanelli's Joneses, who up to date can

muster twelve.

Of the Davieses, there are five whose active service at Stradey ended before my time. They comprise Ben Davies (a fly-half capped in 1895-96); Bailey Davies (full-back, 1907); Rev. Alban Davies (forward, 1913-14); Ivor Davies (wing three-quarter, 1914); and Dr. Graham Davies (centre, 1921-25). Curiously there is then a gap of a generation, because although that splendid full-back, Howard Davies, played twice for Wales in 1939, he was then with Swansea and subsequently joined Llanelli to win four more caps on the resumption of the home international series in 1947. He was one of only two pre-war international players to be chosen, the other being scrum-half Haydn Tanner.

The next in chronological order was Len Davies (1954-55) of poignant memory, a superb flank-forward who in the year following his third international appearance died at the age of 27. Then came his younger brother, Terry, arguably, with the exception of the legendary Nepia, the greatest full-back to have been seen at Stradey Park. He first played for Wales while with Devonport Services and Swansea, but gained 17 of his 21 caps when based at Stradey between 1956-61. Others who complete this roll of honour are Cyril Davies (centre, 1957-61); Brian Davies (centre 1962-63); and Alun Davies (forward, 1985).

It remains to add that three of the Davieses captained Wales - the Rev. Alban (1914), Terry (1960-61) and Jonathan (1988), and three others captained the Scarlets, namely Ben (1894-95 and 1898-99), Howard (the prop-forward, not the full-back, 1958-59) and Phil, now in his second season in charge.

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Cardiff ......H

6 - Neath (W.R.U. Cup Final).... Cardiff

# THE RECORD

Played, 48; won, 41; lost, 7; points for, 1,534; points

### How many games? (Fifteen or more) 41 - Steve Bowling

35 - Simon Davies

33 - Andrew Morgan32 - Colin Stephens

31 - Iwan Jones, Julian Williams 30 - Nigel Davies, Gary Jones, Domenico Setaro

Andrew Bateman, Phil Davies, Eddie James

Jonathan Griffiths

Anthony Buchanan

24 -Phil May

Carwyn Davies, Laurance Delaney

Ricky Evans, David Fox, Emyr Lewis

Russell Cornelius

Mike Griffiths leuan Evans, Mark Evans

Sean Gale

16 - Peter Williams

## How many tries? (one or more) 22 - Steve Bowling 19 - Jonathan Griffiths

18 - Iwan Jones

16 - Phil Davies, Julian Williams

**Ieuan Evans** 

Jonathan Davies, Andrew Morgan

Simon Davies

Carwyn Davies, Mike Griffiths

Gary Jones, Domenico Setaro

Colin Stephens Emyr Lewis

Nigel Davies

Phil May

Andrew Taffetsauffer

Simon J. Davies, David Fox, Peter Williams

Andrew Bateman, Eddie James,

John Llewellyn, Andrew Phillips

Mark Evans, Sean Gale, Anthony Jones.

Jonathan Mayze, Mark Perego Jeff Bird, Anthony Buchanan, Mike Clement,

Laurance Delaney, Ricky Evans, Emyr Jones

#### How many points? (Fifty or more)

207 - Colin Stephens 161 - Jonathan Davies

112 - Steve Bowling

Andrew Morgan

82 - Carwyn Davies

Jonathan Griffiths

Iwan Jones Phil Davies, Julian Williams

Jeff Bird, Ieuan Evans

52 - Simon Davies

W 41 - 12

(Compiled by Neil Williams)

#### The record v. Cardiff

First fixture, 1881 Played, 209 Won, 78 Drawn, 17 Lost, 114

Biggest win, 41 - 6 (1987-88) Heaviest defeat, 0 - 40 (1905-06)

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