



40th ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT



Worthington WELSH 'SEVENS'

For the Snelling Trophy

Cardiff Arms Park

Saturday 13th August, 1994

First game 10.45 a.m.

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Worthington Welsh Sevens Tournament

FOR THE SNELLING TROPHY

Patron: The Rt. Hon. SIR TASKER WATKINS
President: KEN J. JONES, O.B.E.
Chairman: GARVIN HOWELLS
Secretary: BRIAN J. JONES

BILL EVERSON (Man Of The Tournament) AWARD

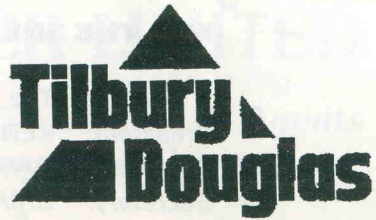
The Adjudicators for the above Award will comprise a panel of the following:-
Garvin Howells, Chairman, and four other judges, one from each of the following Clubs:-
CROSS KEYS, EBBW VALE, GLAM. WANDERERS, LLANELLI.

Rules of the Tournament

1. Each team will be represented by 10 players whose names will be given to the Organising Committee prior to the start of the tournament. From these names seven must be nominated to play throughout the tournament except for injury (see Rule 7).
2. A scrumage will be formed by not less than three players on each side.
3. The tournament will be played throughout on a "Knock-Out" basis.
4. The winner of any game will be the team which has scored the most points at the end of normal time. If the score is equal, play will continue until one side scores to win the game.
5. Each game other than the final will be of seven minutes duration each half, with one minute interval.
6. The Final will be of ten minutes duration each half at the end of which, if the scores are equal, Rule 4 will apply.
7. If an injured player is declared unfit by the tournament doctor, he may be replaced immediately during the game from within the 10 names submitted at the commencement of the tournament. No player who has been replaced may take any further part in the tournament.
8. The decision of the referee on all questions relative to play will be final.
9. In the event of any contingency arising which is not covered by these Rules, the decision of the Organising Committee will be final.

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for the

Snelling Trophy Tournament

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**WELCOME TO
"THE WORTHINGTON WELSH SEVENS
FOR THE SNELLING TROPHY"
from BRIAN BLAKE, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
WELSH BREWERS LTD.**



Colin Hillman (Captain, 1993 Winners - South Wales Police), and Brian Blake with the coveted Snelling Trophy.

This year's tournament is the 40th since its formation in 1954 and we can be assured that the players taking part today will be as determined to enjoy themselves and play exciting Rugby as their illustrious predecessors have been in previous years.

Today we have six extra clubs in the Tournament.

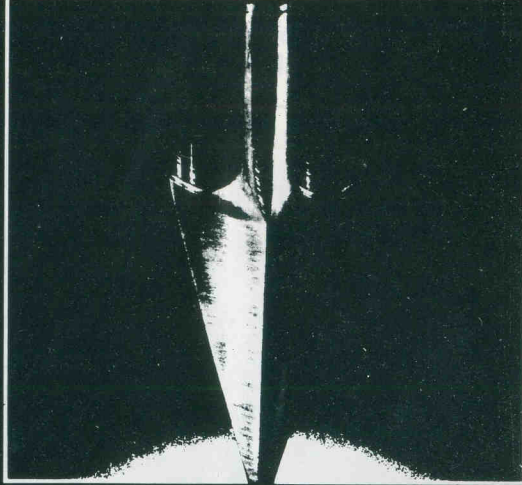
To the three newcomers, Abercynon, Llanharan and Treorchy, *CROESO*. I am sure that you will enjoy your Worthington Welsh Sevens debut.

To Bath, Bristol and Moseley, welcome back to Wales and thank you for so readily agreeing to participate in this rather special year of the Tournament.

My Company is delighted to be closely involved with Welsh Rugby and our sponsorship of today's event is one which we are indeed honoured to support.

I sincerely trust that you will have a most enjoyable day.

STRONGBOW



Straight to your thirst.

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RUGBY**



**FOOTBALL
CLUB**

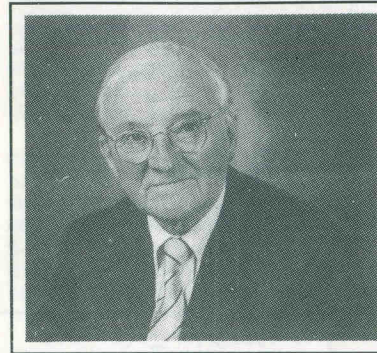
Set in the picturesque location of the Athletic Ground, the Clubhouse provides an ideal setting for **CONFERENCES/MANAGEMENT TRAINING** and other **SPECIAL FUNCTIONS**

For further details contact either:-

TONY BARRY	DAVE HUGHES	PHIL GIBBINS
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"FOLLOW THE BEARS"

SIR TASKER WATKINS, V.C., PRESIDENT WELSH RUGBY UNION AND PATRON SNELLING SEVENS ORGANISATION RECALLS THE LAST 40 YEARS . . .



When Mr. Snelling, renowned man of Newport, supporter of rugby, local Magistrate and leader in the gas industry in Wales, gave his name to the newly created Sevens Rugby Tournament he could hardly have envisaged how much pleasure the Snelling Sevens, as they became known, were to bring to players and spectators unused to this abbreviated and exerting form of rugby football which began life in the Scottish Borders. Now Sevens Rugby Tournaments occur in many places in Wales. But this one remains, as it began, the outstanding event of its kind in the Principality.

Bill Everson, also very much of Newport, started it all. He found ready assistance from most of the leading Welsh Clubs in putting his ideas for this Tournament into effect. It was entered into with enthusiasm, being seen as the Welsh version of the Middlesex Sevens. Certainly for the first 10 or 15 years of its existence it deserved to be so regarded attracting regularly crowds of over 30,000. For reasons which it is unnecessary to refer to here its attraction waned for some while but recently there have been sure signs of a return to its one time widespread attraction.

Today's Tournament is as expansive as any of its predecessors and should prove to be a resounding success. That will be no more than the organisers of it deserve, likewise its sponsors to whom, as Patron, I wish to express profound appreciation. Some recognition of their valuable assistance is manifest in the full title of the Tournament.

On this 40th Anniversary a backward glance is, I think, appropriate if only in respect of the memory of those who have kept the event going, as well as starting it off. Some outstanding administrators from the Clubs taking part are in that company. Bill Everson has passed on. His contribution was immense. Almost no less was that of two others who are no longer alive, John Perry of Glamorgan Wanderers, a treasurer greatly missed, and that not easily forgotten character, Lot Thorne of Penarth. There have been others of great value of course. Suffice it that these three, and the late Elvet Jones of Llanelli, shall be representative in this expression of gratitude of the selfless work of them all.

As for the quality of players and the play generally, volumes could be written. Who present at the first Tournament at Rodney Parade does not still recall Newport beating Ebbw Vale in the final? Who can have forgotten the great duel between those two international sprinters and rugby players - our President, Ken Jones, and Jack Gregory of Bristol? Those of us who have been at every Tournament have a host of memories of great play and players. In that context our Hon. Secretary deserves a place. Brian Jones was not only a fine player but a master of the craft of Sevens football. The life of the Tournament owes him a great deal.

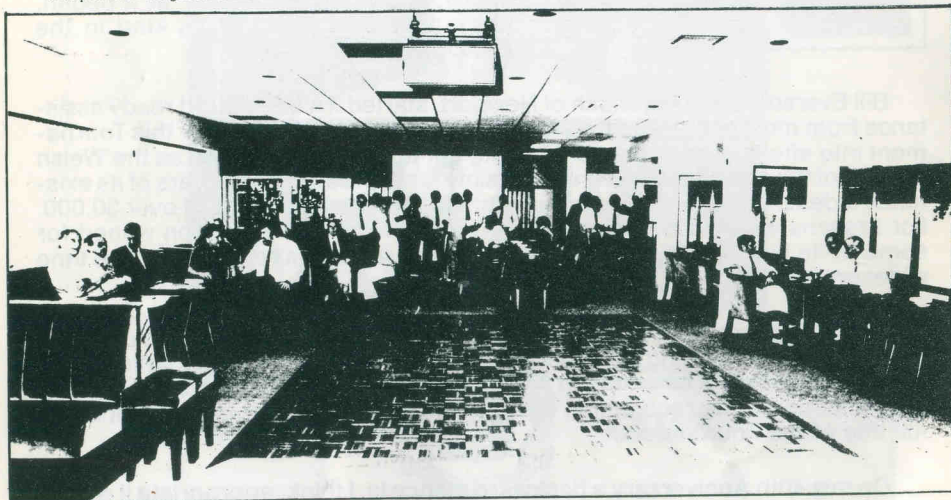


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The recent extension to the Bridgend Rugby Football Club is another progressive step for the club - which is now a major success both on and off the field.

The impressive extension to the Brewery Field base provides grand surroundings combined with a grandstand view which is equipped to cater for meetings of 15 people to social functions involving up to 180.

The luxurious patron's bar offers a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere for up to 150 people who can take in the panoramic view of the Brewery Field or enjoy watching the big screen video facility which is available. The lounge has been designed to suit that special wedding day or set the scene for sales promotions and general commercial activities.



Meanwhile, for those who delight in taking to the dance floor, the members' lounge offers the perfect facility for dancers who can also count on first class service from the excellent bar facilities. The ground floor can be utilised for rugby match sponsors to entertain guests in style and comfort.

Up to 70 guests can be entertained in surroundings which are geared to generate a special before and after match rugby atmosphere.

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All costs exclusive of VAT.

DID A GNAT ROB 'SLOGGER'?

by JOHN BILLOT (Western Mail)

It was May 1, 1954 and a pint of Hancock's Best cost 1s 4d in old money. The foot rush was still in fashion. Remember the foot rush? It was as old and almost as lethal as hacking! Wales had defeated Ireland, France and Scotland and would have collected the Grand Slam yet again had not England pipped us 9-6 at Twickers. Happy days, indeed (apart from those deadly foot rushes) and just the right climate for Newport RFC to launch a new game on the Welsh scene. The Scots had been playing sevens, or something like it, almost since the days of Bannockburn, when they gave the English a worse afternoon than any at Murrayfield, while the Middlesex Sevens was the shop window of the game at Twickenham.

Newport brought sevens on a big scale to Wales (though Old Penarthians had a foot in the door three years earlier) and today we mark the 40th anniversary of an event that once packed some 30,000 watchers into the National Ground. Five days after the first Welsh Sevens, Roger Bannister ran the first sub-four-minute mile, but in Wales we were still talking more earnestly about the 33-minute tie that saw Penarth go to the semi-final 8-5 at Rodney Parade as the legendary Kevin Bush led his Seaside against equally exhausted Pontypool. Probably the players involved in that notorious marathon of sevens needed the best part of the summer to recover. Those were carefree times when rugby was serious, but fun, and pre-season training was an August inconvenience.

Learning the techniques and tactical nuances would take years, but Newport's planning made them the wizards of the 'short blast' game. During the first 14 years they were nine times winners and made 12 appearances in the final. It was almost divine right of entry for the Rodney Parade Gangs of Seven. They fielded a specialist hooker where other teams sacrificed technical skill for extra pace. Bryn Meredith, of course, was the king of all hookers; jink and dummy was his trademark and there were wing forwards around who could not match him in a sprint.

Olympic sprinter Ken Jones, dynamic halves David Watkins and Bob Prosser, master schemer Brian Jones, towering Brian Price, fearless Glyn Davidge, Geoff Whitson and Brian Cresswell were just a few of the Newport giants who dominated the scene. No-one had so much as a sniff of the ball in the lineout with Brian Price about. These were just a handful of the super-heroes in an age when they were plentiful. Newbridge could field a forward trio of Denis Hughes, Arthur Hughes and Ken Braddock, while Abertillery had Alun Pask, David Pask and Haydn Morgan.

Penarth had Slogger Templeman, scrum half extraordinary, to direct a unit formidable enough to challenge Newport's wonder-team. In fact, had great referee Ivor David not had a gnat in his eye he would have agreed with the hundreds at Swansea in 1956 and Slogger's drop-shot would have pipped the Black-and-Ambers instead of the Seaside losing the final 5-3.

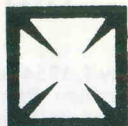
Neath enjoyed the artistic skill of scrum half Martyn Davies to inspire them to victory for the first time in 1964. They put out holders Newport in the first round 6-0, which represented an earth-shaking feat, and nippy Martyn set up the try for Howard Rees a minute from the end to beat Cardiff 10-5 in the final. Neath's giant presence used to be the fabled Rees Stephens, but sevens was not his scene. Rees was a foot rush man; all huge boots and knee-caps like sledge-hammers. It is impossible now to equate this amiable character with the 'monster' who terrorised the rugby fields!

The Sunshine Sevens of 1960 brought Llanelli the Snelling Trophy for the first time. They went to the final through an Onllwyn Brace drop-goal in extra time against Abertillery, while Penarth reached the final after stopping Newport reaching the final for the first time. But Llanelli's sizzling pace, with runners such as Wynne Oliver, Brian Davies and Ken Jones behind the brilliant Brace, was too much for any side. That included plucky Penarth.

In 1966 they called it the greatest final. Most people expected it to be fought out by Newbridge, the favourites, and Bridgend, with maestro Ron Evans, Keith Bradshaw, Billy Griffiths, John Lloyd and Colin Standing in their line-up. But it was a Cardiff-Newport final. Newport, whose stars were away with the Lions, were led by bustling Alan Thomas. They led 20-15; but Maurice Richards went in and converted to force extra time. Cardiff, with Billy Thomas hooking, stole Newport's put-in, Billy Hullin darted away and Tony Williams, one of the best sevens tacticians, swept over for 23-20 victory. Space and pace is the key once possession is won and we hope today will bring more thrills in the manner of those distant early days of happy memory.



NEATH



RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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**WORTHINGTON
WELSH SEVENS**
the 1994-95 Season
and welcomes new members*

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wish

**THE WORTHINGTON
WELSH SEVENS**

every success

in the

**1 9 9 4 Competition
for the Snelling Trophy**

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1994-95

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for the rest of the season



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TEAMS AND PLAYERS IN TODAY'S MATCHES

ABERAVON

Cols: Red & Black Hoops

Mark Glover	1
Ian Evans	2
James Davies	3
Pat O'Brian	4
Steffan Lewis	5
Paul Williams	10
Pat Hogan	11
Geraint Evans	12
Martin Stephens	13
Richard Diplock	14

ABERCYNON

Cols: Red & Black

M. Bowcott	1
G. Kathrens	2
A. Roberts	3
P. Cummings	4
L. Winder	5
J. Downs	10
P. Jones	11
M. Morgans	12
J. Edwards	13
M. Davies	14

ABERTILLERY

Cols: Green & White

Kingsley Jones	1
Nigel Meek	2
Mark Picton	3
John Williams	4
Dean Jones	5
Richard Lewis	10
Byron Hayward	11
B. Corlett/A. Price	12
M. Williams/A. Dobbs	13
Darren John	14

BATH

Cols: Blue & White

Eric Peters	1
Gareth Adams	2
Martin Haag	3
Steve Ojomoh	4
Mike Lloyd	5
Audley Lumsden	6
Simon Geoghan	7
Jonathan Callard	8
Ian Sanders	9
Mike Catt	10

BRIDGEND

Cols: Blue & White

Andrew Williams	1
Ian Greenslade	2
Glenn Webbe	3
Simon Jenkins	4
Rhodri Jones	5
Robert Howley	10
Matthew Lewis	11
Gwilym Wilkins	12
Gareth Thomas	13
Matthew Back	14

BRISTOL

Cols: Blue & White

Ralph Knibbs	A
Ian Patten	B
Mark Fontaine	C
Murry Walker	D
Gavin Sharpe	E
Barry Whitehead	F
Tim Griffin	G
Mark Denney	H
Neil Matthews	I
Gareth Reayer	J

CARDIFF

Cols: Camb. Blue & Black

Andrew Lewis	1
Huw Bevan	2
Owain Williams	3
Hemi Taylor	4
Mark Bennett	5
Andy Moore	10
Owain Thomas	11
Steve Ford	12
Simon Hill	13
Chris John	14

CROSS KEYS

Cols: Black & White

Geraint Jones	1
Shaun Wyn Davies	2
Morgan Price	3
Jeff Scrivens	4
John Read	5
Shaun Phillips	10
Micah Hassel	11
Ian Gladwyn	12
Laurie Watkins	13
Richie Nichols	14

EBBW VALE

Cols: Red, Green & White Hoops

Paul Hudson	1
Mark Gregory	2
Noel Chard	3
Mike Mogford	4
Andrew Thomas	5
Julian Davis	10
Chris Lake	11
Ian Morgan	12
Andrew Jewitt	13
Cain Price	14

GLAM. WANDERERS

Cols: Blue, Black & White

Adrian Wainwright	1
Timothy Henson	2
Mark Burley	3
Steve Oakley	4
Darren Gibbon	5
Nick Ward	10
Richard Marshall	11
Eamonn Holland	12
Ossie Fahiya	13
Simon Collins	14

LLANELLI

Cols: Scarlet

Justin Thomas	1
Wayne Booth	2
Duncan Hughes	3
Garren Evans	4
Andrew Richards	9
Andrew McPherson	10
Steven Johnson	11
Paul Young	12
Euros Evans	13
A.N. Other	14

LLANHARAN

Cols: Black & Blue

Meirion Reynolds	1
Chris Langdon	2
Andrew Tucker	3
Matthew Harry	4
Wyn Hughes	5
Paul Hughes	10
Graham Davies	11
Kevin Jones	12
Graham Pritchard	13
Wayne Jarvis	14

TEAMS AND PLAYERS IN TODAY'S MATCHES

MAESTEG

Cols: Black & Amber

John Hopkins	1
Matthew Wareham	2
Paul Thomas	3
Chris Stevens	4
Noel Thomas	5
Huw Lewis	10
Mark Watts	11
Brett Davey	12
Jason Riggs	13
Nicky Walsh	14

MOSELEY

Cols: Red & Black

Mike Ord	1
Dean Ball	2
Steve Lloyd	3
Matt Whiteley	4
Mark Shelton	5
Garry Becconsall	10
Alistair Kerr	11
Jan Bonney	12
Eral Anderson	13
Leroy McKenzie	14

NEATH

Cols: All Black

Chris Wyatt	1
Andrew Thomas	2
Steve Williams	3
Andrew Kembury	4
Barry Williams	5
David Llewellyn	10
Rhodri Jones	11
Huw Woodland	12
Richard Jones	13
Steve Bowling	14

NEWBRIDGE

Cols: Sky Blue & Black

Andrew Gibbs	1
David Roberts	2
Peter Crane	3
Marcus Lawford	4
David Churchill	5
Wayne Taylor	10
Andrew Green	11
Jeremy Lloyd	12
Alan Lucas	13
Darren Hooper	14

NEWPORT

Cols: Black & Amber

Alun Carter	1
Ben Atkins	2
Ben Watkins	3
Chris Arnold	4
Ian Harvey	5
Mark Roderick	10
Matthew Evans	11
Matthew Kehoe	12
Martin Llewellyn	13
Geraint Bowden	14

PENARTH

Cols: Blue & White

Mark Edwards	1
James Jackson	2
Jason Allen	3
Leigh Young	4
Martin Liddiatt	5
Craig Miller	10
Carwyn Lewis	11
Ian Field	12
Chris Howells	13
Gafyn Stiff	14

PONTYPOOL

Cols: Red, Black & White

Gareth Taylor	1
Mark Jones	2
Paul Graham	3
Jim Ridley	4
A.N. Other	5
Matthew de Maid	10
Mark Ring	11
Nathan Humphreys	12
Mark Taylor	13
David Lynch	14

PONTYPRIDD

Cols: Black & White Hoops

Richie Collins	1
Phil Thomas	2
Dale McIntosh	3
Mark Rowley	4
Greg Prosser	5
Neil Jenkins	10
Paul John	11
David Manley	12
Owen Robbins	13
Ceri Thomas	14

S. WALES POLICE

Cols: Scarlet & White

John Apsee	1
Gareth Judd	2
Steve Davies	3
Nick Davies	4
Andrew Price	5
Andrew Hughes	10
Darryl Thomas	11
Simon Evans	12
Richard Williams	13
Geraint Jones	14

SWANSEA

Cols: All White

Robert Appleyard	1
Steve Moore	2
Jaime Lewis	3
Steve Lawrence	4
Scott Egear	5
Leighton Weinder	10
Lyndon Griffiths	11
Simon Davies	12
Steve Barclay	13
Alun Harries	14

TREDEGAR

Cols: Black, Red & White

Tony Edwards	1
Paul Moyle	2
John Williams	3
Dorian Medlicott	4
Anthony Edwards	5
Robert Jenkins	10
Nigel Griffiths	11
Mark Fleet	12
Ian Morgan	13
Andrew Green	14

TREORCHY

Cols: Black & White

Andy Gwilym	1
Owain Lloyd	2
Keith Orrell	3
Chris Bridges	4
Mark Jones	5
David Evans	10
Luc Evans	11
Dominic St. John	12
Lloyd Davies	13
Darryl Hughes	14

WORTHINGTON WELSH SEVENS FOR THE SNELLING TROPHY - 1994 40th Anniversary Tournament

THE PATRON, PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE WISH TO GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE
THE SPONSORSHIP OF WELSH BREWERS LTD.

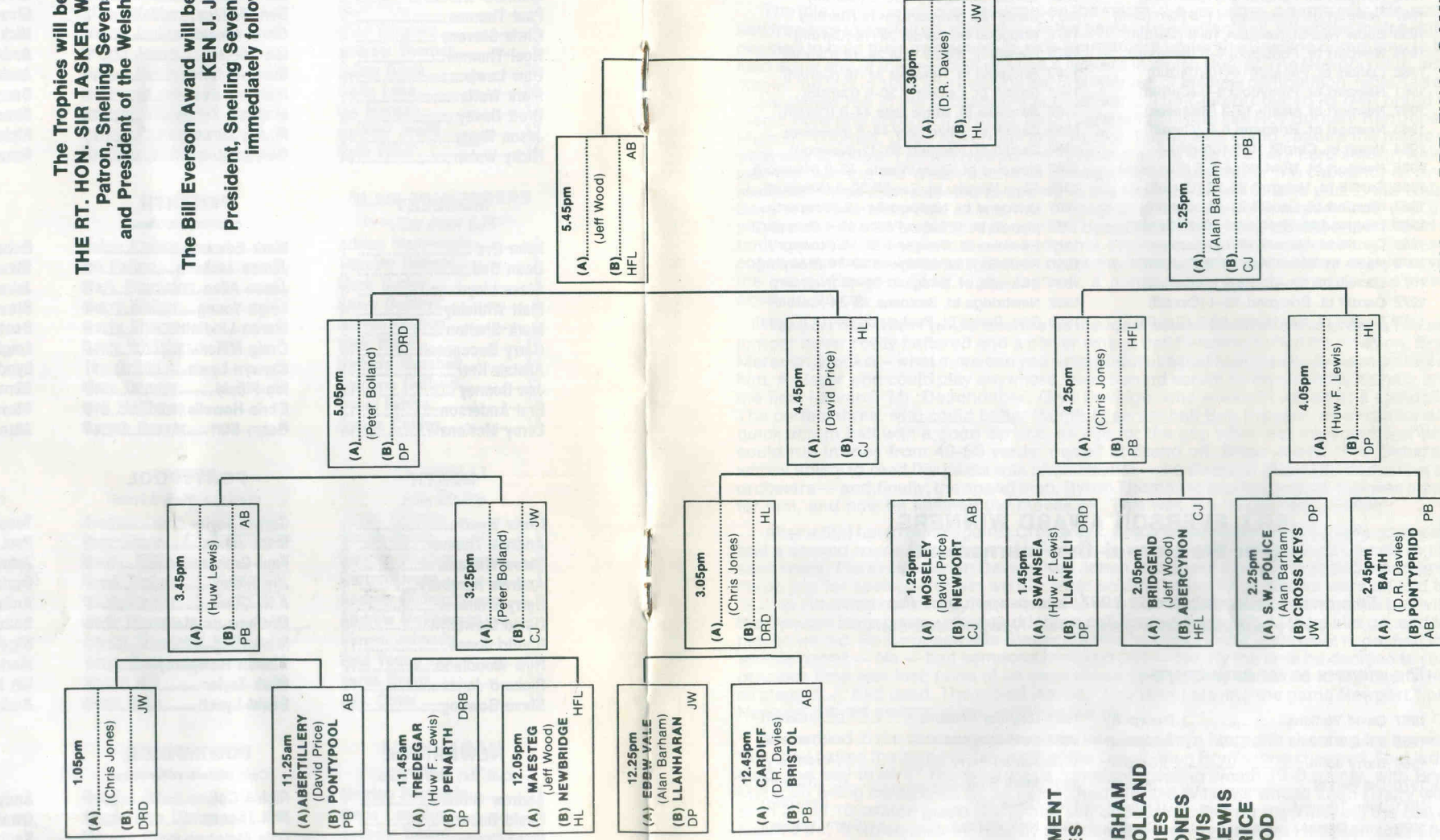
10.45am (A) TREORCHY (Huw Lewis) (B) G. WANDS. DP HFL	11.05am (A) ABERAVON (Peter Bolland) (B) NEATH. JW HL
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16

The Trophies will be presented by
THE RT. HON. SIR TASKER WATKINS, V.C.,
Patron, Snelling Sevens Organisation
and President of the Welsh Rugby Union.

The Bill Everson Award will be presented by
KEN J. JONES, O.B.E.,
President, Snelling Sevens Organisation
immediately following the Final.

By relating letters
A and B to the
score-board,
spectators will be
able to follow
details of the score.



1994
WORTHINGTON
SNELLING SEVENS
WINNERS

TOURNAMENT REFEREES

- ALAN BARHAM
- PETER BOLLAND
- D.R. DAVIES
- CHRIS JONES
- HUW LEWIS
- DAVID PRICE
- JEFF WOOD

6.00 p.m. PRE-FINAL GAME: Huw Lewis

THE SNELLING SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1954 Newport bt. Ebbw Vale 6-0 (Newport)	1974 Bridgend bt. Swansea 30-14 (Cardiff)
1955 Cardiff bt. Newport 8-3 (Newport)	1975 Bridgend bt. Cardiff 32-12 (Cardiff)
1956 Newport bt. Penarth 5-3 (Swansea)	1976 Cardiff bt. Newport 18-8 (Cardiff)
1957 Newport bt. Abertillery 11-8 (Swansea)	1977 Cardiff bt. Newport 24-16 (Cardiff)
1958 Ebbw Vale bt. Newport 10-5 (Cardiff)	1978 Bridgend bt. Cardiff 38-16 (Cardiff)
1959 Newport bt. Pontypool 6-3 (Newport)	1979 Llanelli bt. Ebbw Vale 26-16 (Cardiff)
1960 Llanelli bt. Penarth 14-10 (Cardiff)	1980 Bridgend bt. Newport 24-16 (Cardiff)
1961 Newport bt. Pontypool 8-3 (Cardiff)	1981 Cardiff bt. Leicester 20-6 (Cardiff)
1962 Newport bt. Neath 19-3 (Swansea)	1982 Swansea bt. Ebbw Vale 44-6 (Cardiff)
1963 Newport bt. Bridgend 6-3 (Cardiff)	1983 Cardiff bt. Abertillery 44-6 (Newport)
1964 Neath bt. Cardiff 10-5 (Cardiff)	1984 Cardiff bt. Newport 30-12 (Newport)
1965 Newport bt. Newbridge 9-8 (Swansea)	1985 Newport bt. Glam.Wands. 43-0 (Newport)
1966 Cardiff bt. Newport 23-20 (Cardiff)	1986 Glam.Wands. bt. Cardiff 30-6 (Newport)
1967 Newport bt. Cardiff 21-15 (Cardiff)	1987 Bridgend bt. Newport 34-12 (Newport)
1968 Bridgend bt. Pontypool 25-5 (Cardiff)	1988 Llanelli bt. S.Wales Police 40-4 (Newport)
1969 Cardiff bt. Llanelli 18-15 (Cardiff)	1989 Swansea bt. Bridgend 22-16 (Newport)
1970 Neath bt. Ebbw Vale 18-8 (Cardiff)	1990 Newbridge bt. Bridgend 20-14 (Newport)
1971 Llanelli bt. Newport 31-10 (Cardiff)	1991 Swansea bt. Bridgend 26-18 (Newport)
1972 Cardiff bt. Bridgend 15-4 (Cardiff)	1992 Newbridge bt. Swansea 28-24 (Cardiff)
1973 Llanelli bt. Newbridge 52-6 (Cardiff)	1993 S.W. Police bt. Pontypridd 24-14 (Cardiff)

BILL EVERSON AWARD WINNERS (For the Man-of-the-Tournament)

This award was instituted in 1967, and perpetuates the name of a very popular and widely known Newport secretary.

The winners so far have been:-

1967 David Watkins.....(Newport)	1981 Gwynfor Williams.....(Cardiff)
1968 John Williams.....(Bridgend)	1982 Jeff Herdman.....(Swansea)
1969 Barry John.....(Cardiff)	1983 Adrian Parry.....(Abertillery)
1970 Dai Parker.....(Neath)	1984 Mark Ring.....(Cardiff)
1971 John Thomas.....(Llanelli)	1985 Steve Pill.....(Newport)
1972 John Davies.....(Cardiff)	1986 Nick Ward.....(Glam. Wands.)
1973 Roy Bergiers.....(Llanelli)	1987 Aled Williams.....(Bridgend)
1974 Viv Jenkins.....(Bridgend)	1988 Jonathan Davies.....(Llanelli)
1975 Stuart Lane.....(Cardiff)	1989 Mark Tittley.....(Swansea)
1976 Chris Camilleri.....(Cardiff)	1990 David Rees.....(Newbridge)
1977 John Churchill.....(Newport)	1991 Chris Bradshaw.....(Bridgend)
1978 Gareth Williams.....(Bridgend)	1992 David Manley.....(Newbridge)
1979 Peter Morgan.....(Llanelli)	1993 Richie Collins.....(S. Wales Police)
1980 J.P.R. Williams.....(Bridgend)	

David Watkins, first winner of the Everson Award (1967), wrote the following article for the Newport R.F.C. Centenary publication "100 Years of Black & Amber Magic" in 1975.

MAGNIFICENT SEVENS

by DAVID WATKINS (Newport-Barbarians-Wales-British Lions)

The title sums up my own thoughts on the seven-a-side game, a game of thrills, spills and freedom to exploit all one's skills in the game of rugby football. When the major clubs decided to hold their own seven-a-side tournament under the Snelling committee to be held at the end of the season it opened a new era in Welsh Rugby. The Newport club, who staged the first in 1954 and became the first winners of the new competition, have had an unparalleled run in the subsequent competitions. The Club produced its own brand of magic skills and approach to this type of rugby with players like Roy Burnett, Ken Jones, Malcolm Thomas, Doug Ackerman and the like, but no side could capture the magic of what was to follow. I joined Newport in 1962 and at the end of a very hard season which saw the club top the Welsh unofficial championship table under the captaincy of Bryn Meredith. I was then selected to appear in the Newport seven to take part in the Welsh Sevens at Swansea. This to me was a great challenge as the Newport Club and the players who had taken part previously had been, apart from 1 or 2 lapses, unparalleled in both approach and skills in this kind of game. I remember quite vividly meeting the team coach at the back of Newport Station on its way to take part in what I have enjoyed over the years. Seven-a-Side rugby football, a game which puts to the test one's real ability in rugby.

Newport had what I would describe as the ideal seven: Brian Price at prop, a line out jumper never really bettered and a player whose ball handling belied his position; Bryn Meredith, Hooker - what more can you write about him that hasn't already been written of him. A player who could play anywhere, even behind scrum so much ability he had; and the final forward, 'Mr. Dependable', Glyn Davidge, who worked himself to a standstill. The perfect three, who could better them!! At scrum half Bob Prosser, an exceptionally quick scrum half with a good service, an eye for the gap when not expected and who could run in tries from 40-50 yards; myself at Stand off; Brian Jones, 'The General', whose ability to read the game was phenomenal - he directed play like conducting an orchestra - and, finally, the speed man, Byron Thomas to capitalize on all that was made for him, and how he finished the moves off. This was the 'Magnificent Seven'.

After a first hard round against Crosskeys, which was won by Brian Jones's coolness, and a second round victory over Aberavon, we were then to play against Llanelli in the semi finals. The likes of Brian Davies, Ken Jones and Stuart Davies, all speed merchants made just for sevens. But win we did, after scoring some 20 points we were all told by 'B.J.' to conserve our energy, and we did so with startling effect. Llanelli had the ball with the minutes ticking away when suddenly a call came out from 'B.J.' to let him go, and let him go we did. So surprised was Stewart Davies he didn't know quite what to do; had the whistle gone? - No - had someone knocked on? - No. By the time he decided to run, precious time was lost; none of us gave chase so he slowly cantered to the line. What strategy 'B.J.' had used. The crowd jeered, "You're not playing the game Newport," but Newport played sevens to win, and win we did.

We arrived in the dressing room with a very irate Bryn Meredith shouting for the way 'B.J.' had halted the game to the wrath of the crowd, then Bryn's tone changed, "but lads, that's the way to win." The final was a formality, beating Neath 19-3 points, with Bryn Meredith being confronted by an astonished Morlias Williams whose keen rivalry with Bryn at the 15-a-side game giving him stiff opposition, finding Bryn kicking the ball at Neath's put in which took Morlias by surprise and making Graham Hodgson chase his own put in as the ball was going yards behind, allowing our pack to break up and spread, giving Neath no time to set up attacks - what play.

Magnificent Sevens was the title, 'Magnificent Seven' this team was. Newport are now finding the competition stiff as all the teams are realizing you have to prepare, and pick specialist players for this specialist game. Sevens are a great spectacle played properly and no club have perfected the game in Wales more than Newport, Pioneers and forerunners of this Magnificent game. Let's hope we soon start putting the name of Newport RFC yet again on the Snelling Trophy. (Newport won the trophy in 1985 and were runners-up in 1976, 1977, 1980, 1984 and 1987.)

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Worthington Welsh Sevens
Tournament
every success at
Cardiff Arms Park, on
Saturday, 13th August, 1994

Introduction contained in the first Snelling Programme
produced for Rodney Parade, Newport, on Saturday, 1st May 1954

WELSH SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

CHALLENGE FOR THE 'SNELLING' CUP

To Newport comes the privilege of staging the first Welsh Official Seven-a-Side Tournament, and with it the opportunity of establishing this particular brand of Rugby football in Wales, where we have been so loathe to do so. Despite the success of the game in England for many years past, culminating each year in the now famous 'Middlesex Sevens' at Twickenham. Wales has hitherto displayed little interest in such a venture. It is true many local Clubs have staged their Tournaments - mostly out of season - but in the main the overloaded Club programmes of matches in Wales, with fixtures up to the last minute of the prescribed season, has precluded any serious thought being given to the staging of such a Tournament.

The Newport Club have sponsored the idea of a Welsh Sevens for many years, and finally the season 1953/4, with its extra official playing Saturday on May 1st, gave the opportunity for all the first-class Welsh Clubs to agree to keep the date open to stage such a Tournament, and Welsh Sevens was, accordingly, 'on the way'. But it was still not a task easy of organisation: there were many early doubts; the visit of the New Zealand Tourists disorganising Club football as a Touring side always must do, a spell of bad weather causing more Club matches to be re-arranged, and it looked as if the season would need every available playing date to complete the ordinary Club fixtures. But such doubts were quickly dispelled when the organising Committee of the Monmouthshire Clubs concerned, empowered to make the arrangements for the Tournament at Newport, got to work. The response of the Clubs to the agreement made earlier was a splendid one and the success of the venture was assured when it was known that every invited first-class Club in Wales (with the exception of Cardiff) would compete.

The Welsh Rugby Union gave their official sanction to the staging of the Tournament. Glamorgan Wanderers accepted the vacancy to compete left by Cardiff, and with Bristol as the Guest side, sixteen teams enter the Competition this afternoon.

They will challenge to be the first holders of the '**Snelling**' Trophy. Mr. R.S. Snelling, Chairman of the Newport Athletic Club has made a most valuable contribution to the success of Welsh Sevens by presenting a handsome Cup to be held by the winners of today's Tournament, and subsequent Welsh Seven-a-Sides.

Bristol is a happy choice as the guest side of the Tournament. Regular opponents of practically all the sides taking part today, there will be the warmest welcome for the English Club, whose style of play will undoubtedly make them serious challengers.

A word, too, for the response of the Welsh Referees. As will be noted in this programme, all the well-known Referees will be officiating, and their acceptance will be a further contribution to the success of the Tournament.

All necessary details to follow the course of play this afternoon are included in this programme, as well as the rules appertaining to the Sevens Tournament. The organising Committee have worked extremely hard to produce this event, and a successful Tournament at Newport today can establish the venture of Seven-a-Side Rugby in Wales.



WINNERS OF THE FIRST SNELLING SEVENS, 1954

Back Row (l. to r.): L. Davies, *M.C. Thomas, *R. Shepherd, M. Quartley, *D.A.G. Ackerman, B. Williams.
Seated: *G. Ross, *K.J. Jones (captain), E. Shiner (Chairman), *B.J. Jones, *R. Burnett.

* These players played.

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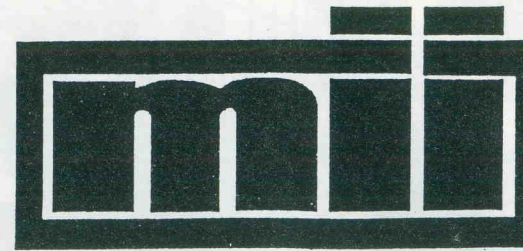
The Conference rooms are now being used by industry. The new public room is approximately 48ft long by 27ft wide with well located electrical power points and good double door access.

A second room, which is directly accessible from the kitchen, is just over half the size of the first — again there is good external access and the bar can be made available.

If required, the club lounge — with its fine display of trophy cabinets — can be put at the disposal of company users at lunch time.

There is ample parking space within the club grounds.

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ABERAVON

v.

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PENARTH

Tuesday, 13th September
GLAMORGAN WANDERERS

Saturday, 8th October
LLANELLI

Saturday, 29th October
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Senior Citizen.....£49.00 Seat Reservation.....£6.00

Season tickets, for admission to the ground only, are also available as follows:-

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For full details of Membership and Season Tickets for Newport R.F.C., please contact the General Office, **Tel: (01633) 258193.**

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