



**SWALEC
CUP**

SEMI-FINAL

CARDIFF

v PONTYPRIDD

**SATURDAY, 16TH APRIL 1994
RODNEY PARADE, NEWPORT
KICK-OFF 3.15PM**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.00



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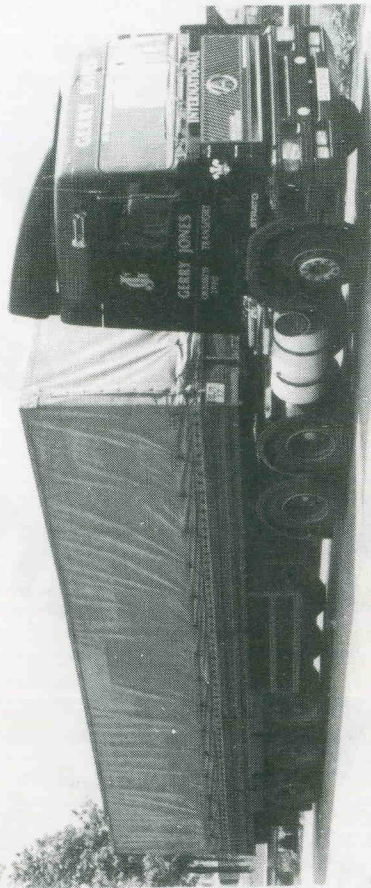
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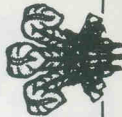
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WELCOME, TODAY'S CUP SEMI-FINALISTS

... by EWART PRYER, Chairman of Newport Rugby Club

Newport Rugby Club are proud to host one of this season's SWALEC Cup semi-finals, and we extend a very warm welcome to our old friends, Cardiff and Pontypridd, who will be striving their utmost to reach the final of this glamorous competition.

Both teams are doughty cup-fighters, and it will not be a new experience for either of them to figure in a final. Cardiff, in fact, have reached this stage of the competition eight times, and on five occasions they have succeeded in carrying off the trophy. Incidentally, two of their final appearances were made against my club. They lost to Newport on the first occasion, but defeated Newport the second time.

Pontypridd have yet to win the cup, but in 1979 they appeared in the final where they lost 18-12 to Bridgend. This season both Cardiff and Pontypridd have established themselves as two of the outstanding teams in Welsh rugby, and they go into today's cup tie with similar records in the first division of the Heineken League.

They have each registered 15 victories and one draw, and at the moment they occupy third and fourth places in the league table. Either could very well move into the runners-up spot before the season is over.

Between them Cardiff and Pontypridd have supplied Wales with some brilliant players for this season's five-nations championship, and this afternoon spectators will be hoping that these players, as well as their colleagues, will make the match worthy of its great traditions. We, at Newport, wish both clubs good fortune!



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Of the six clubs currently running or setting up their own lottery, Newport has been the first to realise the increased benefits that are available to both the club and its many loyal supporters as a result of joining this WRU venture.

Newport has been running its own lottery scheme with some success for three years and has made a fair amount of money from it. But with the advent of the Welsh Rugby Union scheme, the club and committee have realised that they can make greater profits whilst avoiding all of the administrative headaches which are linked with this type of venture.

The WRU Lottery has as its motto . . . "Help your Club, Keep our Stars in Wales and Win Great Prizes" and it is the clubs which stand to gain most from this new venture. A large proportion, as much as 45% of the gross income, will be returned to the participating clubs. This money can be used for any purpose — a new stand, refurbishment of the bar or dressing rooms, or whatever else is necessary to improve the facilities at our rugby clubs.

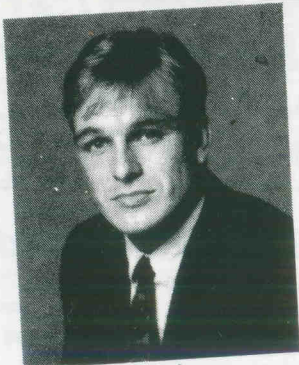
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CARDIFF'S CUP JOYS — AND HEARTBREAKS

by DUNCAN GARDINER of the SUNDAY OBSERVER

ON JANUARY 23 last year, I was scheduled to cover a cup-tie at Tenby who were hosting Swansea. Cutting short a longish story and journey, my car broke down somewhere approaching Bridgend and I was able only to limp back to Cardiff where I duly phoned the office to report the problem.

"Where can you get to?" they inquired solicitously.

"Cardiff Arms Park," I said.

"Who are they playing?"

"St. Peter's."

"Who are they?"

I attempted to "sell" the match on the basis that St. Peter's were a romantic side, named after a church and a feeder club to the big boys a mile or two across the city centre.

Reluctantly, the Observer sports editor accepted my excuses.

The rest is history. I sat virtually alone in the Cardiff press box and watched the biggest surprise in Welsh Cup history as the Division Three team toppled the First Division leaders 16-14.

Later, much later, that evening, my phone rang. It was the Observer sports desk to congratulate my car on its perspicacity.

On the equivalent Saturday this year, they came to me as if I were the font of all cup shock knowledge. Bet you can't find another one, they challenged.

Now, I'm reluctant to mention it and offend the hospitality of my Newport friends, but I said confidently that Ystradgynlais was the place to be.

The conversation was not dissimilar to the previous year.

"Who?"

"Ystradgynlais."

"Repeat that."

"Ystradgynlais."

"Oh, go on, give us a clue."

"Try Who strangled Alice."

And it came to pass that Who strangled Alice beat Newport and my name became synonymous at the Observer with being at the right place for the story.

In the year of the underdogs, perhaps I should be at Neath this afternoon to see whether I — or the car — can work some magic for Maesteg.

But seriously, as they say, Cardiff — and Newport despite a similar trauma on one occasion at Penclawdd — have not always been cup pushovers.

While Llanelli inevitably lead the way insofar as they have won the WRU Cup nine times — including the last three — and have appeared in 15 semi-finals in the 22 years in which the cup has been played, Cardiff have made 12 semi-finals, winning on eight of these occasions.

The club's most memorable cup years were during the Eighties, during which they won the cup on five occasions and were beaten finalists on another.

Their first final appearance was against Llanelli in 1973, the second year of the competition, when the Scarlets won by a comfortable 30-7 watched by 32,000 people. Alex Finlayson scored the Cardiff try, with Gareth Edwards dropping a goal but it was nothing like enough to counter tries from Ray Gravell, J.J. Williams and Hefin Jenkins, who were assisted by a conversion and four penalties by Phil Bennett.

Four years later Cardiff were back again, this time to be beaten 16-15 by Newport. Paul Evans and Bob Dudley-Jones scored tries for Cardiff, Ken Davies and Jeff Cranton for Newport. John Davies converted both and kicked a penalty for Cardiff but Chris Webber, now a Cardiff committee man, kicked both a conversion and a penalty which, along with a Leighton Davies penalty, tipped the balance Newport's way.

In 1981, Cardiff won the cup for the first time. Tries from another current committee man, Bob Lakin, and the triumphant Treorchy chairman Neil Hutchings, with two Gareth Davies penalties, were too much for Steve Fenwick's two penalties.

Next year Cardiff beat Bridgend again though the match ended all square at 12 apiece. Yet another present-day committee man, Ian Eidman, scored the only try of the match to decide it. David Barry kicked two penalties and a conversion while Gary Pearce kicked the Bridgend penalties and a drop goal.

1984 saw Cardiff back again, beating Neath 24-19 with tries from Owen Golding and Gerry Cordle, plus four penalties and two conversions from Gareth Davies.

There was a hiccup a year later when Gary Pearce gained his revenge. Now with Llanelli, he dropped a late second goal to edge his team in front 15-14 after tries from Alan Phillips and Gerry Cordle had put Cardiff ahead.

But it was Cardiff yet again the following year when Newport were beaten 28-21. Adrian Hadley, who, like Cordle, eventually went north, scored the first-ever hat-trick of Cup-final tries. Neil O'Brien had another while Gareth Davies contributed 12 points with his boot. Richie Collins, now with Pontypridd and formerly with Cardiff, scored a Newport try that day.

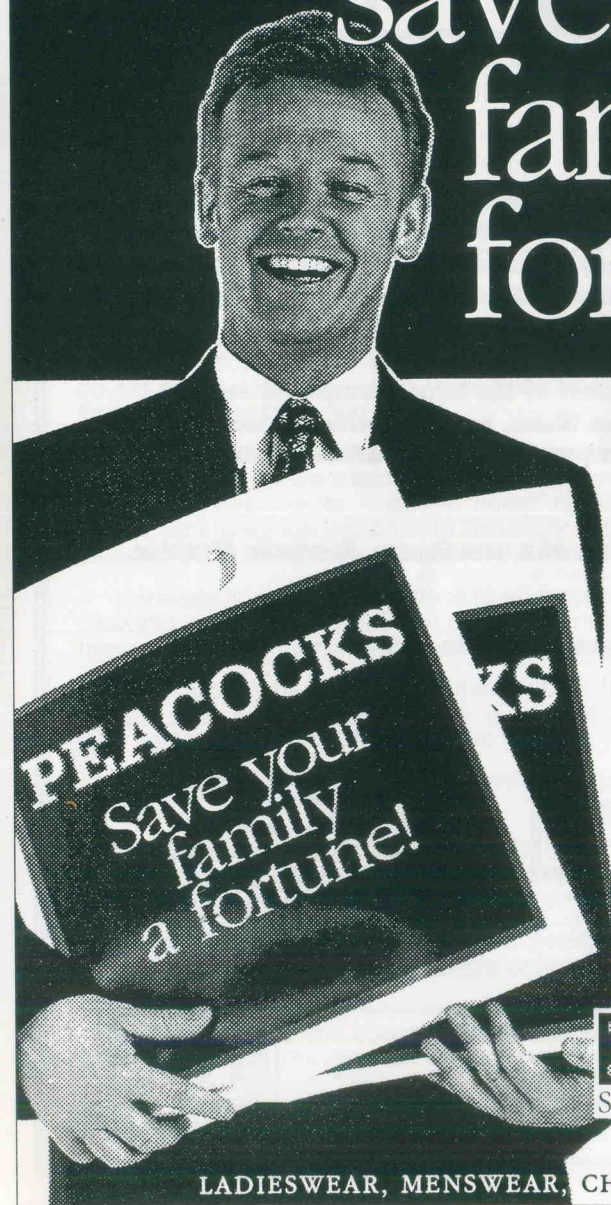
In 1987, it was Cardiff again — and for the last time to date — when they beat Swansea 16-15. Gerry Cordle again scored the try, Geraint John kicked three penalties and Mike Rayer dropped a crucial goal.

Those seeking pointers — and certainly those from Pontypridd — may show that Ponty have beaten Cardiff on the two occasions they have met in the Cup — by 9-7 in 1979 and by 13-6 the following year.

Cardiff, on the other hand, can point to two winning semi-finals at Rodney Parade — beating Newbridge 21-11 in 1982 and Pontypool by 24-3 in 1985.

Statistics and history, however, prove little in rugby football. Ponty will be determined to make what would be only their second final appearance while Cardiff, as we have seen, have been without a trophy for a few years now.

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WHEN BACK-BENCHERS REVOLTED OVER CARDIFF RFC . . .

ON APRIL 17, 1946, the House of Commons was debating the entertainments tax and was wrestling from the Government relief from the duty imposed.

Some help was indeed given and the then M.P. for Cardiff South, Mr. James Callaghan, later of course to become the Prime Minister, rose to address the assembled Members.

"I join the congratulations which have been offered to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this concession. In South Wales, particularly among the struggling rugby clubs, it is welcome as a valuable help.

"Speaking as one who has the honour to represent the City which has the finest rugby club in the four countries . . ."

At this point, for some reason, Mr. Callaghan was interrupted with calls of "No . . . no". Apparently the protests were coming largely from one of his own party, Mr. James Griffiths, who represented Llanelly (as it was then spelt).

Mr. Callaghan was undeterred by this protest from the West.

"I must appeal for your protection," he pleaded with the Deputy Speaker. "I repeat, and doubtless I shall be contradicted in later speeches if Hon Members do not agree with me . . . that Cardiff Rugby Football Club is undoubtedly the finest rugby football club."

Doubtless he was indeed further interrupted and contradicted. And perhaps the words were just a shade emotive, even for a politician. But whereas Cardiff may not — quite — be the "finest" club in rugby, it is quite certainly one of the best known worldwide, with its history dating proudly back to 1876 and its blue and black shirts having been worn with distinction by so many great players.

Certainly it would be pointless to attempt to list the international caps, for example, which have been won by players representing the Arms Park team: they would need far more space than could be allotted in a match programme.

Ask Cardiff fans of different ages for their favourites and they will all come up with different answers depending on their own generation for, even in the lean years, there have been heroes.

And nor, of course, has it merely been players of individual skill, even genius, that were produced.

Cardiff were also, for example the originators of the four threequarter system. Way back in season 1883-84 Cardiff were short of a threequarter for a visit to Cheltenham College, one of the stronger teams of the time.

They brought in a young man from Somerset — F.E. Hancock — who had moved to Cardiff and he scored the only two tries of the match.

When the team was selected for the next match, away at Gloucester on February 23, 1884, the committee were in a quandary. They did not wish to leave out any of the regular "three" quarters, nor did they want to lose the blossoming Hancock. They chose all four, the combination being so successful that the four three-quarters were retained for the remainder of the season, thus revolutionising the game which, till then, had been viewed as chiefly for the forwards.

Some may consider the game to be still like that but the Welsh Rugby Union adopted the system in 1888-89 with the other Home Unions following in 1893-94.

Cardiff, in fact, have over the years always attempted to play open and therefore attractive rugby. It is still the case. A glance at the Heineken League first division table today will show Cardiff in only third place, but with 81 tries scored — not only the most in Wales but 15 ahead of their closest competitors, Abercynon.

Last year, incidentally, and with 79 tries, Cardiff were 57 behind Llanelli's almost incredible 136 from their 22 league matches but still the second highest try scorers in the four divisions.

In recent years, the famous club has not, however, been as successful perhaps as in many previous decades. Two seasons ago, indeed, had it not been for the re-structuring of the Heineken Leagues with no-one dropping from the top division, Cardiff would have been relegated.

A change of personnel, a change of spirit and a change of attitude altered things to the point that Cardiff last season finished runners-up under their new coach, Alex Evans, an Australian bubbling with enthusiasm and ideas, and new captain Mike Hall.

Certainly, there is much talent in the first team squad. Mike Hall, Mike Rayer, Nigel Walker, Simon Hill, Mike Griffiths, Adrian Davies, Steve Ford, Stuart Roy, Owain Williams and John Wakeford have all represented Wales.

Derwyn Jones — at 6ft 11ins one of the larger players in the rugby world — Hemi Taylor, the naturalised New Zealander, Howard Stone, Mike Budd, Lyndon Mustoe have "A" caps and there are a group of under 21 and Youth caps thrusting through. The Cardiff Under 21 side, indeed, is having a fine season.

Not all the international stars, alas, are available today, missing through non-rugby injuries. Nigel Walker, the exciting former Olympic athlete who returned to the game after 10 years absence to score 14 first division tries in his debut year and who this season has added Welsh tries to his record book, damaged ribs in a car crash.

Hemi Taylor, the hard-working back-row man, limped off in the last round of the Cup against the South Wales Police and, within a few hours was on the operating table — for appendicitis.

Whatever Cardiff side is chosen today, they will certainly try to live up to the aims and abilities of their illustrious predecessors and to Mr. Callaghan's proud claim that he represented "the finest".

Cardiff have made little impression in the Cup during the Nineties, as can be read in another article in the programme, and the club would dearly like a meaningful addition to the splendid Trophy Room in the Arms Park clubhouse. They would also like to do it in style.

D.G.

THE ROAD TO THE SEMI-FINAL . . .

CARDIFF

ROUND 4: Dec. 18 — Bt Pontypool 16-6 (Home)
(T: Pen try, C: A. Davies; P: A. Davies 2; DG: A. Davies)

ROUND 5: Jan 22 — Bt Oakdale 27-3 (Home)
(T: S. Hill 2, M. Rayer, C. Laity, A. Moore; C: A. Davies)

ROUND 6: Feb 26 — Bt Bridgend 15-6 (Home)
(T: S Ford, O. Williams; C: A Davies; P: A. Davies)

QUARTER FINAL: Apr 5 — Bt South Wales Police 20-13 (Home)
(T: C. Laity, O. Thomas, A Moore; C: A Davies; P: A. Davies)

Adrian Davies: 23 point in 4 matches.

PONTYPRIDD

ROUND 4: Dec 18 — Bt Treorchy 28-6 (Home)
(T: Paul John, G. Prosser, M.Lloyd; C: N. Jenkins 2; P: N. Jenkins 3)

ROUND 5: Jan 22 — Bt Aberavon 29-0 (Home)
(T: O. Robbins 2, D Manley; C: N. Jenkins; P: N. Jenkins)

ROUND 6: Feb 26 — Bt Swansea 13-3 (Home)
(T: M. Rowley; C: N. Jenkins; P: N. Jenkins 2)

QUARTER FINAL: April 2 — Bt Newbridge 32-10 (Home)
(T: N. Jenkins 2, M. Rowley; C: N. Jenkins; P: N. Jenkins 5)

Neil Jenkins: 53 points in 4 matches.

SEMI-FINAL FACTS AND FIGURES (1972-1993)

MOST APPEARANCES: 15 Llanelli (won 11, lost 4)

OTHER APPEARANCES: 12 Cardiff (8-4); 11 Swansea (6-5),
Aberavon (2-9); 10 Bridgend (5-5); 9 Neath (6-3); 6 Pontypool (2-4);
5 Newport (3-2); 4 Newbridge (0-4); 3 Pontypridd (1-2); 2 Ebbw Vale (0-2)

GAMES PLAYED AT NEATH R.F.C.: Nil

GAMES PLAYED AT NEWPORT RFC: 1982 - Cardiff 21 Newbridge 11;
1985 - Cardiff 24 Pontypool 3.

HIGHEST SCORES:

1988:	Llanelli	38	Aberavon	0 (at Swansea)
1975:	Llanelli	35	Bridgend	6 (at Swansea)
1993:	Neath	33	Bridgend	15 (at Llanelli)

MOST POINTS: Aggregate — 62 Gareth Davies (Cardiff) 2t, 9c, 7p, 5dg);
49 Colin Stephens (Llanelli); 39 Phil Bennett (Llanelli); 35 Paul Thorburn (Neath);
Paul Turner (Newbridge/Newport); 32 Steve Fenwick (Bridgend); 30 Gary Pearce
(Bridgend/Llanelli).

MOST POINTS IN SEMI-FINAL: 20 Gareth Davies (Cardiff v Pontypool, 1985)
(1c, 4p, 2dg); 19 Phil Bennett (Llanelli v Bridgend, 1975) (1t, 3c, 3p).

MOST TRIES IN SEMI-FINAL: 3 Roy Woodward (Swansea v Pontypool, 1976).

N.B. Richard Webster (Swansea) and Ian Jones (Llanelli) scored tries in the
1991-92-93 semis.

Colin Stephens (Llanelli) kicked goals in the 1991-92-93 semis.



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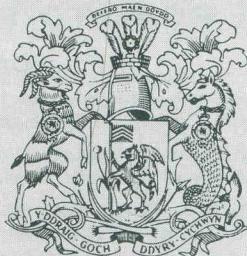
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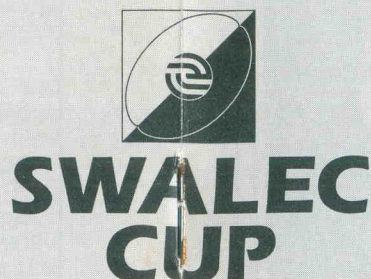
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SEMI-FINAL

Cefnwr **15** Full Back

Asgell Dde **14** Right Wing

Canolwr Dde **13** Right Centre

Canolwr Chwith **12** Left Centre

Asgell Chwith **11** Left Wing

Maswr **10** Stand-off

Mewnwr **9** Scrum-half

Prop Rhydd **1** Prop

Bachwr **2** Hooker

Prop Tyn **3** Prop

Clo **4** Lock

Clo **5** Lock

Blaenasgellwr **6** Flanker

Wythwr **8** No. 8

Blaenasgellwr **7** Flanker

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.....**Jason LEWIS**

.....**Steele LEWIS**

.....**O. ROBINS/G. JONES**

.....**Neil JENKINS**

.....**Paul JOHN**

.....**Nigel BEZANI (Capt.)**

.....**Phil JOHN**

.....**Andrew METCALFE**

.....**Greg PROSSER**

.....**Mark ROWLEY**

.....**Matthew LLOYD**

.....**Dale McINTOSH**

.....**Richie COLLINS**

.....**Robert DAVIES**

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ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS

We usually begin our Club notes at Sardis Road with a welcome to the opposition. This time I can welcome our own supporters to Rodney Parade, and thank Newport for staging this semi-final of the SWALEC Cup. When we were last here six weeks ago, we just managed to win an exciting contest with Newport by 32 points to 30. Let us hope that today's game ends with the same result, but may we have a little less excitement, please. A last minute conversion from the touchline sealed it that time, and I know that many Pontypridd hearts will not stand that sort of strain again!

This is only the fourth time that we have got to this stage of the Cup, and only the third time that we have met Cardiff in the competition. So far we have been unsuccessful in two out of our three semi-finals, but have beaten Cardiff previously in the third and fourth rounds. The omens, therefore, are mixed. This season we lost 17-24 at home to Cardiff in the Heineken League, but beat them away 15-10. Again, the form book suggests a close contest. We are definitely going to need that resuscitation machine!

A great deal will depend upon Pontypridd's main scorers. Neil Jenkins broke Adrian Davies' league points record last Saturday, having now scored 269 points from 18 matches. Everyone has been praying for his health after the injury he sustained against Swansea, and we will know today whether he has been successful in regaining his fitness. Dave Manley is the highest try scorer in the league this season, and we hope that he gets the chance to run in a few more this afternoon.

A great deal of Ponty's success this season has been due to the efforts of the pack, with captain Nigel Bezani leading the way. We have a solid and skilful front five, and an excellent back row. The set pieces, and particularly the lineout under the new laws, are key features of the game. They must be dominated if we are to get over this last barrier to the SWALEC Cup Final. Good luck to them all, backs and forwards, and may they be the best team on the day.

When the players take the field this afternoon they know that they will carry the hopes of thousands of fans with them. When the team wins they bring joy to households up and down the valleys and vales. Husbands or wives get special attention, kiddies get bought toys, the dog gets extra long walks, and the cat gets the cream. When the team loses, husbands, wives, kiddies, dogs and cats lay low for a while! Seriously though, the supporters do care very deeply about Pontypridd R.F.C., and they get a hell of a lift when it all goes well.

Our main sponsors, *Just Rentals*, are here in force today, and we thank them for all their support. We have said this before, but Bernard Jones and Gerald Coleman contribute so much to the success of the team in so many ways. I sat in front of them at the Newport match, and their delight when that conversion went over showed that they are not only interested in the business aspects of our relationship. Sponsorship is a partnership, and the Club has been able to do its part this season with our excellent results.

So let's win one more today, for the husbands, wives, kiddies, dogs and cats, for Gerald and Bernard, for all our other friends, and for me.

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE?

The WRU Cup, started in 1971, has been running for 23 seasons now. The first game played by Pontypridd was at home to Kenfig Hill, and we won by 16 points to 7. Our record to date is:-

Season	Stage Reached	Venue	Defeated By	Score
71-72	3rd Round	Home	Llanelli	4-18
72-73	2nd Round	Home	Kenfig Hill	7-22
73-74	Preliminary	Away	Treherbert	7-10
74-75	Semi-final	Neutral	Aberavon	9-10
75-76	4th Round	Away	Pontypool	9-11
76-77	3rd Round	Home	Bridgend	9-12
77-78	4th Round	Away	Newport	7-9
78-79	Final	Nat. Stad.	Bridgend	12-18
79-80	4th Round	Home	Llanelli	3-16
80-81	3rd Round	Home	Llanelli	6-11
81-82	3rd Round	Away	Aberavon	10-25
82-83	3rd Round	Away	Ebbw Vale	8-16
83-84	3rd Round	Home	Aberavon	3-18
84-85	2nd Round	Away	Llandovery	6-21
85-86	1st Round	Away	Dunvant	0-4
86-87	3rd Round	Home	S.W. Police	15-16
87-88	3rd Round	Home	Aberavon	7-18
88-89	3rd Round	Home	Llanelli	11-26
89-90	3rd Round	Home	Newport	3-12
90-91	3rd Round	Home	Llanelli	6-19
91-92	Semi-Final	Nat. Stad.	Llanelli	6-27
92-93	4th Round	Away	Llanelli	6-24

P	W	L	D
71	48	22	1

	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs	Total
Pontypridd	185	87	104	7	1264
Opponents	70	24	91	6	626

THE PATH TO THE SEMI-FINAL

Date	Opponents	T	C	P	DG	For	Agst	T	C	P	DG
18.12.93	Treorchy	(H) 3	2	3	0	28	- 6	0	0	2	0
22. 1.94	Aberavon	(H) 3	1	4	0	29	- 0	0	0	0	0
26. 2.94	Swansea	(H) 1	1	2	0	13	- 3	0	0	1	0
2. 4.94	Newbridge	(H) 3	1	5	0	32	- 10	2	0	0	0

	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs	Total
Neil Jenkins	2	5	14	0	62
Owen Robins	2	0	0	0	10
Mark Rowley	2	0	0	0	10
Paul John	1	0	0	0	5
Matthew Lloyd	1	0	0	0	5
David Manley	1	0	0	0	5
Greg Prosser	1	0	0	0	5

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SWALEC CUP CARDIFF v PONTYPRIDD

Cardiff and Pontypridd will know their final opponents even before they kick off in front of what is sure to be a packed Rodney Parade in the second of the day's semi-finals.

The clubs have met only twice before in the competition — and, strangely enough, that is twice more than Llanelli and Maesteg who have never faced each other in the Cup — and it is Pontypridd who hold the edge, winning 9-7 in a quarter-final back as far as 1979 and triumphing again, this time by a 13-6 margin, at Cardiff the following season.

Pontypridd will spend the rest of this week trying to ensure that Wales outside half Neil Jenkins, with a League record 269 points to his credit already this season, recovers from the left hamstring he tweaked at Swansea on Saturday, while Cardiff also have injury problems.

Jenkins, though, remains optimistic. *"It was not too bad when I woke up on Sunday",* he said. *"I will have plenty of treatment over the next few days and I am reasonably confident of being fit to face Cardiff. There is no point in being negative but, on the other hand, I will only play if I know I have made a full recovery. This is a huge match for the club and potentially a great game to play in — I would hate to miss it."*

Nigel Bezani, Pontypridd's influential captain and prop forward, had to admit defeat at the hands of a bout of influenza last weekend and missed the League match at Swansea. Defeat of any sort is not something Bezani enjoys and it will take a lot more than a virus to keep him out of the action on Saturday.

"I have tasted defeat in one semi-final and I would certainly like to win this one to make up for it," said Bezani. *"Winning the Cup is an ambition I would love to fulfil but I have great respect for the Cardiff front row, all of whom, you could say, I know quite well."*

"Mike Griffiths and I are old pals. We are both builders so we have a chat during work occasionally about various games and there must be a chance we will have another chat on Saturday at some time or another."

"Cardiff's young prop Andrew Lewis looks to be a fine prospect and has been very impressive but here at Pontypridd we are lucky to have hooker Phil John in outstanding form this season, while Andrew Metcalfe has been a revelation at prop since joining us from Swansea. It all points to a classic struggle."

Cardiff coaching director Alex Evans will wait as long as possible before naming his line-up but already knows he will be without Wales wing Nigel Walker, who cracked a rib in a road accident recently, and back row forward Hemi Taylor, who was rushed to hospital for an emergency appendix operation moments after the Blue and Blacks had booked their semi-final place with a victory over South Wales Police last Tuesday.

In addition, two more Wales internationals are doubtful. Wing Simon Hill has a strained hamstring and outside half Adrian Davies has still not fully recovered from the rib cartilage damage he suffered while playing for Wales A against Canada A last month.

"It is a bit of a problem to face a match as important as this with so many injury worries but experience has shown that our squad has plenty of strength in depth and the players who come into the side will be able to do the job required of them," said Cardiff captain Mike Hall.

Despite the selection doubts, Hall remains confident. *"Pontypridd are playing very well at the moment but they haven't won anything yet, and it is our intention to keep it that way,"* he said. *"We know we can beat them and they are certainly no Llanelli or Neath just yet. We went up to their place and won early in the season and there is no reason to believe we cannot do the same again. They won't even have home advantage this time."*

All the talking stops on Saturday when it is time to turn the words into deeds. It is as simple as that, or is it? It will not be long before we know the answer.

PONTYPRIDD SQUAD

MATHEW BACK (Full Back): d.o.b. 5.4.70 Height 6'1" Weight 195lbs Student. A Pontypridd Youth XV product, he first played for senior team in '89-90 season. To date has played 80 games, and scored 153 points (10T, 18C 4P). Representative honours: Wales A; Welsh Students.

NIGEL BEZANI (Prop and Captain): d.o.b. 5.11.56 Height 6'1" Weight 235lbs Self employed builder. First played for Pontypridd in '88-89 season. Previous club - Tylorstown. To date has played 128 games, and scored 40 points (10T).

GARETH BISHOP (Scrum Half): d.o.b. 18.10.73 Height 5'9" Weight 165lbs Local Authority worker. Joined from Blackwood this season. Has played 5 games, and scored 5 points (1T).

RICHIE COLLINS (Flanker): d.o.b. 2.3.62 Height 6'1" Weight 210lbs Police Officer. First played for Pontypridd in '82-83 season. Rejoined in '93-94 after spells with Newport, Cardiff, and South Wales Police. To date has played 51 games and scored 67 points (15T) Representative honours: Wales B; 14 caps for Wales between 1987 and 1991.

CRISPIN CORMACK (Outside Half/Full Back): d.o.b. 11.6.69 Height 6'3" Weight 210lbs. Joined from Cardiff Quins in '93-94 season, having previously played for London Welsh. Has played 30 games, and scored 183 points (12T, 36C, 17P).

ROBERT DAVIES (Scrum Half): d.o.b. 31.10.63 Height 5'9" Weight 190lbs Electrician. First played for Pontypridd in the '84-85 season. Other clubs - Ystrad Rhondda, Pontypool, Mountain Ash. To date has played 232 games, and scored 441 points (108T, 1C).

KEVIN GALLAGHER (Lock): d.o.b. 9.1.69 Height 6'8" Weight 260lbs Office worker. Joined from Pontyclun in '93-94 season. Has played 17 games. Spending summer playing in New Zealand.

CHRIS JARMAN (No. 8): d.o.b. 17.1.61 Height 6'5" Weight 240lbs Shop fitter. First played for Pontypridd in '89-90 season. Other clubs - Newbridge, Newport, and Angouleme in France. To date has played 73 games, and scored 102 points (25T).

NEIL JENKINS (Outside Half): d.o.b. 8.7.71 Height 5'10" Weight 185lbs Marketing/PR for Just Rentals. A Pontypridd Youth XV product he first played for senior team in '89-90 season. To date has played 94 games, and scored 1083 points (39T, 129C, 203P, 13DGs). Representative honours: Wales Youth; Wales U21; Wales B; 21 caps for Wales between 1991 and 1994.

PAUL JOHN (Scrum Half and Vice-captain): d.o.b. 25.1.70 Height 5'9" Weight 170lbs Teacher. A Pontypridd Youth XV product, he first played for the senior team in '91-92 season after rejoining from Cardiff. To date has played 79 games, and scored 137 points (27T, 7C, 1DG). Representative honours: Wales U21; Wales B and Wales A.

PHIL JOHN (Hooker): d.o.b. 5.2.62 Height 5'8" Weight 180lbs Transport Manager. First played for Pontypridd in '85-86 season. Previous club - Merthyr. To date has played 258 games and scored 99 points (24T). Barbarian. Toured Canada with Wales B in 1989.

CERI JONES (Centre): d.o.b. 30.7.65 Height 6'1" Weight 215lbs Fitter. First played for Pontypridd in '86-87 season, and captained side in '88-90. Other clubs - Cardiff. To date has played 200 games, and scored 206 points (48T, 3DGs). Toured Canada with Wales B in 1989.

GAVIN JONES (Wing/Outside Half/Full Back): d.o.b. 28.2.69 Height 6'1" Weight 190lbs Operations Manager. First played for Pontypridd in '90-91 season. Previous club - Porth. To date has played 82 games, and scored 234 points (31T, 29C, 11P).

NICK JONES (Lock/Flanker): d.o.b. 29.10.65 Height 6'3" Weight 240lbs Police Officer. First played for Pontypridd in '92-93 season. Previous clubs - South Wales Police, Glamorgan Wanderers, Maesteg. To date has played 42 games, and scored 30 points (6T).

PONTYPRIDD SQUAD (Cont'd) . . .

HUGH LAUGHARNE (Wing): *d.o.b. 22.12.68 Height 6'1" Weight 190lbs Sports Shop Manager.* Joined from Cardiff Quins in '93-94 season. Has played 10 games, and scored 40 points (8T).

JASON LEWIS (Centre): *d.o.b. 4.1.71 Height 5'8" Weight 175lbs Roofer and Tiler.* A Pontypridd Youth XV product, he first played for senior team in '90-91 season. To date has played 104 games, and scored 125 points (27T). Representative honours: Wales U21.

STEELE LEWIS (Centre): *d.o.b. 29.10.64 Height 5'10" Weight 190lbs Roofer and Tiler.* First played for Pontypridd in the '85-86 season, and captained side in '91-92. To date has played 286 games, and scored 305 points (73T, 2C) Representative honours: Wales B; Wales A. Toured Australia with Wales in 1991.

MATTHEW LLOYD (Flanker/No. 8): *d.o.b. 14.8.70 Height 6'1" Weight 225lbs Teacher.* First played for Pontypridd in the '92-93 season. Previous club - Cardiff. To date has played 36 games, and scored 45 points (9T). Representative honours: Wales U21.

DAVID MANLEY (Wing): *d.o.b. 8.11.68 Height 5'9" Weight 175lbs Teacher.* Joined from Newbridge in '93-94 season. To date has played 23 games, and scored 80 points (16T). Is top try scorer in Heineken League this season. Representative honours: Wales A.

DALE McINTOSH (No. 8): *d.o.b. 23.11.69 Height 6'3" Weight 230lbs Marketing/PR for Just Rentals.* First played for Pontypridd in '89-90 season. To date has played 126 games, and scored 202 points (48T). Representative honours: Scotland U21; Scotland B.

NIGEL MEEK (Hooker): *d.o.b. 20.10.65 Height 5'10" Weight 225lbs.* Joined from Pontypool in '93-94 season. Has played 20 games, and scored 10 points (2T). Representative honours: 3 caps for Wales in 1993; Barbarian.

ANDREW METCALF (Prop): *d.o.b. 27.6.67 Height 6'1" Weight 235lbs.* Joined from Swansea in '93-94 season. Has played 15 games.

GREG PROSSER (Lock): *d.o.b. 21.5.66 Height 6'8" Weight "over 225lb" Police Officer.* First played in '86-87 season, and rejoined in '92-93. Other clubs - South Wales Police, Bridgend. To date has played 40 games, and scored 48 points (10T). Representative honours: Wales A.

OWEN ROBBINS (Wing): *d.o.b. 12.1.70 Height 5'9" Weight 175lbs Quantity Surveyor.* Joined from London Welsh in '93-94 season. Has played 32 games, and scored 65 points (13T).

BRUCE ROBERTSON (Prop): *d.o.b. 15.6.59 Height 6'1" Weight 230lbs Fitter.* Joined the Club from Pontyrrch in '93-94 season. Has played 10 games.

MARK ROWLEY (Lock): *d.o.b. 18.11.64 Height 6'7" Weight 245lbs SWALEC Engineer.* A Pontypridd Youth XV product, he first played for the senior XV in '83-84 season. Rejoined from Cardiff in '90-91. To date has played 160 games and scored 66 points (15T).

MARK SMITH (Prop): *d.o.b. 5.10.67 Height 5'10" Weight 215lbs Stock Controller.* Joined from Aberavon in '92-93 season. To date has played 33 games, and scored 35 points (7T).

MARK SPILLER (Flanker): *d.o.b. 24.9.67 Height 6'2" Weight 220lbs Roofer and Tiler.* Joined from Pontypool in '93-94 season. Has played 23 games, and scored 10 points (2T).

PHIL THOMAS (Flanker): *d.o.b. 27.7.69 Height 5'9" Weight 190lbs Maintenance Engineer.* Joined from Bridgend in '93-94 season. Has played 22 games, and scored 5 points (1T). Representative honours: Wales U21.

KEVIN WALKER (Wing): *d.o.b. 18.12.67 Height 6'1" Weight 210lbs Sales Representative.* Joined the Club in '93-94 season, after playing football in Konica League. Has played 13 games, and scored 35 points (7T).

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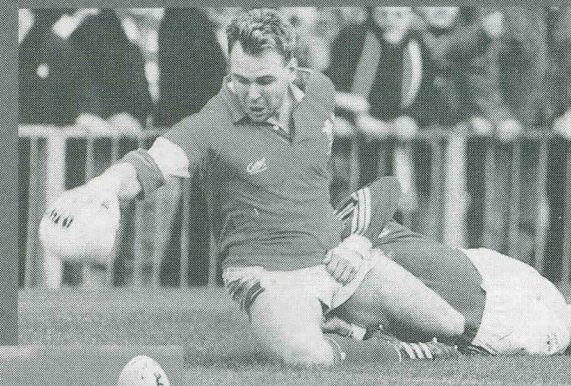


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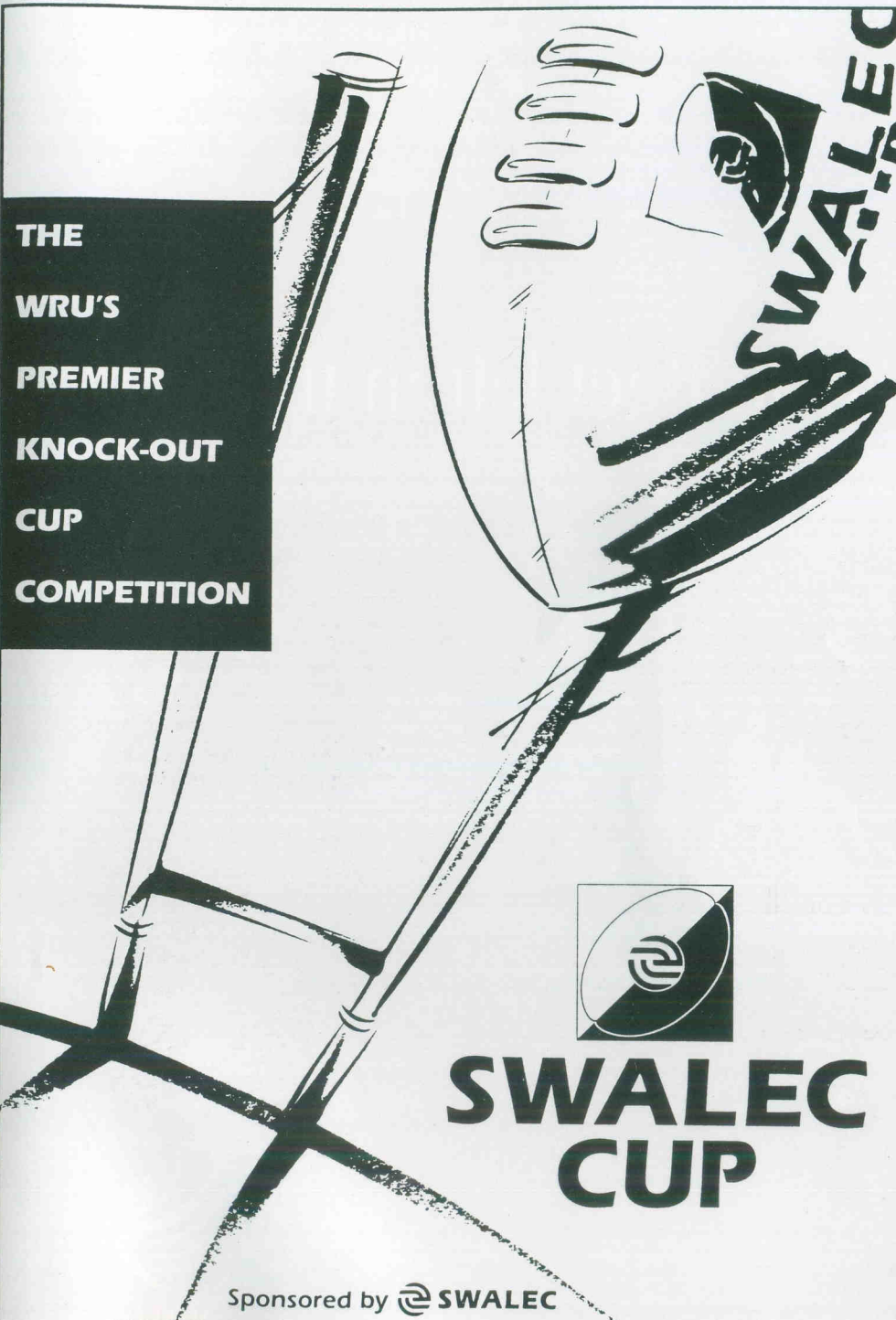
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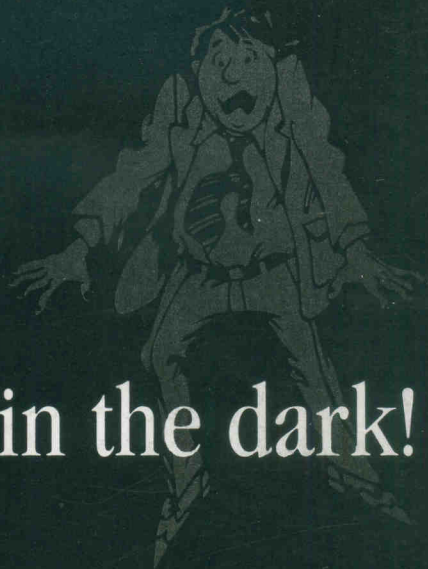
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