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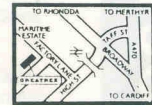
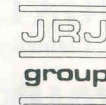
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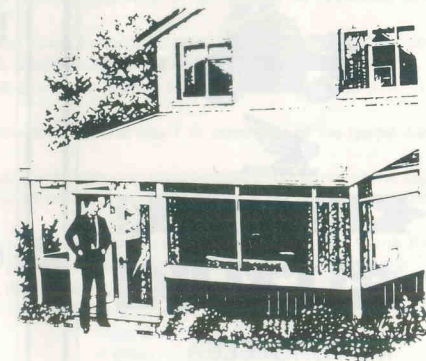


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Club notes

CARDIFF - JUST LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS

As we welcome the players, officials and supporters this evening memories will flood back of many epic encounters on a September evening in the pre-league days. Arguably the home fixture of the season it is to be hoped that it can remain a regular feature for the future league programme, although one must question the wisdom of having to play 3 league games in eight days! It really is asking a great deal of our players.

Of course last season Cardiff achieved a treble over us, so we hope that tonight Ponty will take the first step in a 'reverse triple'.

Our opening game at the Gnoll last Saturday proved to be a real cliffhanger. In the first half we played some exhilarating rugby and were worthy 19 points to 6 leaders at halftime. All credit to Neath for their second half revival which saw them overtake us at 22-19. Our players then showed great commitment and fully deserved the equalising penalty. This could truly be said to have been a game to whet the appetite of our supporters for the remainder of the season and it was a point well won.

For many supporters a number of our current squad will be new names and faces. In all, 14 new players transferred to us in a close season of unobtrusive, but very effective recruitment drive by the rugby sub-committee under their chairman Eddy Jones.

The new players are:

NAME	POSITION	FORMER CLUB
David Manley	Wing 3/4	Newbridge
Owen Robbins	Wing 3/4	London Welsh
Hugh Laugharne	Wing 3/4	Cardiff Quins
Neil Truman	Centre	Tenby
Kevin Walker	Wing 3/4	Cardiff
Crispin Cormack	Outside half	Cardiff Quins
Robert Davies	Scrum-half	Mountain Ash
Bruce Robertson	Tighthead	Pentyrch
Nigel Meek	Hooker	Pontypool
Kevin Gallagher	Lock	Pontyclun
Mark Bowcott	No. 8 Flanker	Abercynon
Mark Spiller	Flanker	Pontypool
Phil Thomas	Flanker	Bridgend
Chris Jarman	No. 8 Flanker	Newport

These new players represent an effective cross-section of established and league players, plus some very promising new talent.

In compiling the squad, it has been necessary to release a number of last year's unit. To them all we say thank you, and good luck with your new clubs. You will always be welcome at Sardis Road.

A number of this season's vice-presidents and vice-patrons will have noted that their names do not appear in the season ticket. This is due to the printing dead-line. A full list will be published in the club programme in due course.

The attention of all supporters is drawn to the newly formed 'Friends' of Pontypridd! Details are on the club notice board. Anyone requiring information, please contact the club secretary.

Members should note that our normal kick-off times this season will be - Saturdays 2.30 p.m. - midweek 7.15 p.m.

Tonight's kick-off was brought forward to accommodate the live T.V. coverage of the game. Let's hope we mark this 'first' for Pontypridd with a victory.

Those supporters still wishing to purchase season tickets can obtain application forms at the club house bar, and they will be on sale at the club office from 12 noon Saturday, 11th, September before the Pontypool game.

The sponsor for this our first home game is Egan Waste Services, Pontypridd. We thank them very much for their support and trust that Mr. Danny Egan and his guests have an enjoyable evening.

We would express our sincere thanks to the match ball sponsors:-

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M.A.C.K. Garages, Pontypridd	Colin Goodwin
Butchers Arms, Glynneath	Alan Williams.

The lucky programme prize is £10.00, and the winner can collect after the game from Mr. Keith Lewis at the supporters shop.

In addition there is a further prize of a gents Rotary wrist watch, kindly donated by Mr. Mark Newbury of Hooper and Rose, Pontypridd. The winner can collect this also from Keith Lewis after the match.

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THE VIEW FROM HERE...

I have a confession. I once had a Cardiff season ticket.

No, boys, it's not that bad a sin honestly. It was free.

I don't know if they still do, but in the early sixties Cardiff gave the schools rugby union a bundle of free junior seasons to distribute.

Dai Metalwork, who ran our Under 13s decided to hold a sports quiz, winners to receive the free pass to the old Arms Park.

I was on the panel and the boys fired in the usual underarms : Which boot did Bleddyn Williams lace up first? (I have since checked with the great man and he can't be sure so heaven knows how our twelve year old second row insisted it was his left).

Who is the only man to play for all the Home Countries at The Arms Park. (Peasy. The conductor of the St Albans Band). Who had two first caps for England in 1958 and 59? (M.K.J. Smith, for rugby in 58 and cricket in 59) and so on.

I had arranged with my mate John Davey that if I was in the running towards the end he should put the killer question. "The 1946 New Zealand forces touring team lost to two teams on tour. One was Scotland, which was the other." I swooped in triumph : "Monmouthshire at Pontypool Park". Game set and match and pass the season ticket. Still I should have known. My father played that day and was carried off shoulder high at the end. He says they chaired him off because he played a blinder. Others reckon that at five feet five inches it was to protect him from the burly New Zealanders whose passes he had a habit of intercepting.

Anyway, I feel I owe my friend John a lot. Thirty years on he is my accountant, so he makes sure I owe him a lot regularly.

And so the winter of the 63-4 season saw me at the Arms Park a lot.

I've still got the programmes. And the memories of the flying crewcut-Stevie Hughes on the wing. With willowy Maurice Richards making his way in the centre. There was Lloyd Williams at scrum half linking with brother Elwyn at flanker, Keith Rowlands a gentle ginger giant played in the second row

Howard Norris was the prototype running prop and in the club afterwards there was Dai Hayward to re-run the game for you from the captain's chair.

All those names have one thing in common, they were Cardiff stars but not Cardiff boys. Rhondda mostly. And that is what stands out in the minds of the followers of the game, that Cardiff have always been able to pull in the players under the tag line of "The greatest rugby club in the world."

To play for Cardiff was to travel stay and play first class, and that image has lasted through the modern era. Alec Evans team is still one you want to beat to show the city slickers that the rest of us know a bit about this game too.

Mind you looking back at the 63-64 fixture list it would have been nice to have a chance. The name of Pontypridd does not appear, but since the more regular meetings began in the seventies there have been some great moments.

In fact Cardiff RFC can take part of the credit for my switch from

newspapers to broadcast journalism in 1977. The home match early in the season was a stunning display under the Sardis lights on a Wednesday night.

We won and I adjourned to the bar with my neighbour. There we fell in with a ghastly crew. Professor Dai Smith, Kim Howells PHD, added an intellectual gloss to the theories of why the upstarts had stuffed the toffs, more practical rugby reasons were supplied by Tom David and Chris Seldon. It was such a good night I clean forgot that I had promised to be in bed early because of a job interview at BBC Wales. I didn't get much sleep but I got the job despite the muddiest shoes ever seen at a BBC interview. I'm sure the clinching moment came when the London based chairman asked what television I had watched the night before. None sir, I replied there was something far more important to do. Truly Cardiff at Sardis is always an occasion. Anyone got a free season ticket handy?

The views are those of the author - not of the Pontypridd club or its officials.

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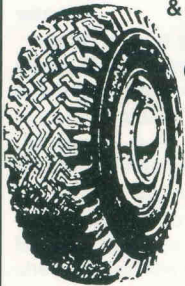
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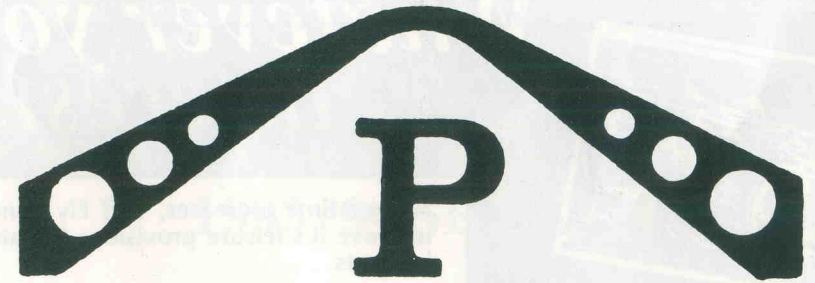
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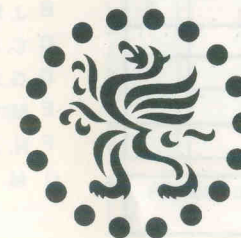
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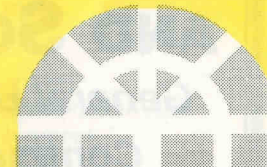
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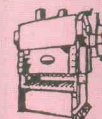
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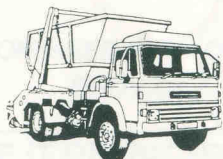
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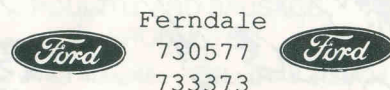
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26.10.88	Drew	27 - 27
23. 9.87	Lost	16 - 18
24. 9.86	Lost	12 - 39
2. 2.10.85	Lost	3 - 32
26. 9.84	Lost	15 - 28
28. 9.83	Lost	4 - 12
29. 9.82	Won	15 - 9
30. 9.81	Lost	3 - 10
8.10.80	Won	11 - 3
10.10.79	Lost	10 - 13
3. 3.79 (C)	Won	9 - 7
27. 9.78	Won	25 - 9
5.10.77	Won	24 - 11
22.10.75*	Lost	15 - 17
25. 9.74	Lost	6 - 18
17. 3.71	Lost	0 - 6

Played	Won	Drew	Lost
20	7	1	12

Points For 262
Points Against 313

L = League
C = Cup
* = Centenary Season

12 Years Ago

29.9.82 Won 15 - 9

Teams:

Pontypridd	Cardiff
John Pritchard	Paul Rees
Andy Cartwright	David Thomas
Mike Edwards	Mike Murphy
Viv Thomas	David Barry
Karl Swain	Gerald Cordle
Colin Morgan	Mark Ring
Steve Cannon	Terry Lee
Kevin Salmon	Jeff Whitefoot
Dennis Young	Lawrence O'Brien
Neil Wilding	Ian Eidman
Steve Stewart	Howard Stone
Lyn Davies	John Scott
Neil Thomas	Robert Lakin
Don Jones	Rhodri Lewis
Carl Smith	Terry Charles

For Pontypridd, John Pritchard kicked a conversion and a penalty, Colin Morgan and Steve Cannon dropped goals, and Steve Stewart got a try. For Cardiff, Mark Ring (who?) got a try, a conversion and a penalty.

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20 Years Ago

25.9.74 Lost 6 - 18

Pontypridd XV: C. Bolderson, B. Juliff, D. Barwood, G. Watkins, B. Williamson, P. McCarthy, M. Tothill, A. Jones, B. Davey, G. Williams, B. Penberthy, B. Leigh, D. Legge, C. Maissen, H. Davies.

Colin Bolderson kicked our six points. Unfortunately we have no details on record of the Cardiff team or scorers.



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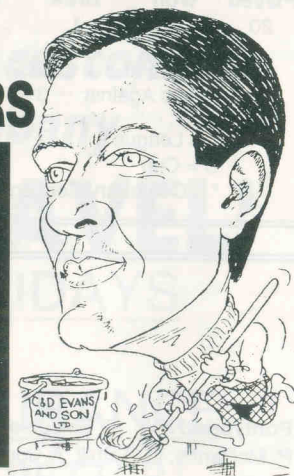
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Ron's Chit-Chat

LIBERTY, FRATERNITY,EQUALITY?

Close seasons, far from being the sterile few months of nothingness that they used to be, have become even more exciting in many ways than the season itself. Since the last game here at Sardis Road we have become embroiled in plot and counter-plot, intrigue in high (and low!) places, and rumour spreading from East to West, as predicted by Shakespeare himself. All culminated in a shattering Palace revolution, as far-reaching I suppose, in its own way, as that archetypal uprising of the masses, the French Revolution itself. I hope that all the numbing inertia of the old set-up is gone for ever, though of course the new regime has yet to prove itself in the field of battle. Yet all the right noises are being made. Let us not forget though that revolutions often turn out to be not quite the new way forward promised when they are spawned. The French people stormed the Bastille in 1789, overthrowing what was the hated symbol of despotism, and this act has been seen and hailed ever since as the ultimate in decisive action at the point of impact. Yet the Bastille turned out to be no more than an outmoded symbol of where the power really lay, inhabited by a few old retainers who had been there so long that they didn't want to move when the mob invited them to lush pastures as heroes of the Republic. It is so important for the new meritocracy to identify the right targets, and then they will carry the whole Rugby population of Wales with them as they go about their appointed task of clearing away the detritus from our rugby fields and committee-rooms.

IT'S A MAD MAD MAD MARKET!

Then again of course, we have had the usual scramble for 'new signings', frantic every year but this year with an added element of Marx Brothers surrealism that has had me rubbing my eyes with disbelief. Club after Club, in strict order of precedence, cry out proudly that they have signed Dai Jones, or Will Evans, from one of their rivals. Not to be out-done, the depleted Clubs must then sign up some new name, or more often some old name, to even up the pre-season scoreline. Not a suggestion of money here! All is sweetness and light and love of the game, purely and simply! Some clubs seem to have been less active in this regard than others - Llanelli for example appear to have had a quiet time of it, making only three or four signings, and Cardiff have contented themselves with about a naphand - presumably these Clubs, as I

suggested last season, are experiencing difficulty in finding places in the stand for all these surplus-to-requirement players to sit during the game! The upshot of it all is much the same as it always is - a gentle reshuffle of the available talent achieving nothing in real terms. We have enjoyed an extra element of Boys' Own this season with Treorchy all but declaring U.D.I. and threatening their own private take-over of the Union. This, apparently is to be done with the blessing of the other Rhondda Clubs, all of whom will gladly see their own identities submerged in the name of Greater Rhondda. I wonder if Penygraig and Treherbert and Ystrad have actually been asked what their views are about this? I speak as a long-time admirer of Treorchy and one who has suffered on many occasions from a surfeit of their hospitality, but if they are indeed about to shake the world, I suspect they shall have to do it on their own!

ONLY ONES IN STEP!

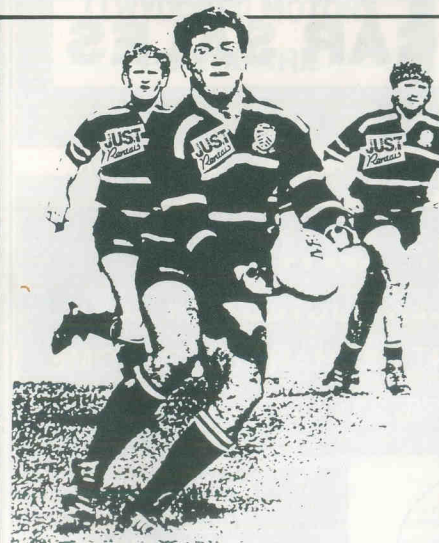
Let me be true to form however, and state at once that while other Clubs have been tumbling round the transfer market like demented clowns our own Pontypridd have made some highly advantageous and far-sighted decisions and have speculated wisely and well (who said I was biased?) New arrivals will find us a friendly and progressive lot - hence the numbers of ex-players who have tasted the grass next door and come home to the non-grass of Sardis (although the crop of greenery looks particularly lush this year, let me say). Some of our signings were much needed, and it is a great relief to see them, for it proves that the Committee thinking is in line with 'bob-bank' opinion, and that the Club and its supporters can see what we lacked and apparently have cured. We even reached the final of the Sevens, for what that is worth, and this must be hopeful since our track record at this particular game is something below absolute zero. All at once the season is on us, just as the sun comes out for the cricketers who have been looking in vain all season for it, the Printer demands a 'Chit-Chat' about a week before I am ready for it, the players are in place, Mr Dennis John and his staff have done their homework and the future is a blank space ready to be filled in by anyone who has the skill and guts and initiative to write history as they what it to be. May tonight's televised match be something that will give the game - and the season - the kick-start it wants and needs.

R.T.

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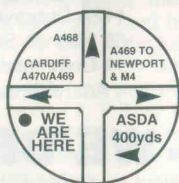
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