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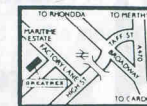
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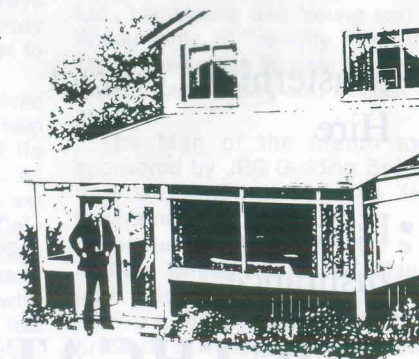


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VAUXHALL

*Club
notes*

Just Rentals - Just Thank You

This afternoon we welcome the players, officials, and supporters of Cardiff R.F.C. to Sardis Road for our Heineken League fixture. There is always a special excitement here for this game, and this year the buzz will be all the greater after our disappointment in the semi final of the Cup last season. Cardiff are a great club, and our relationship with them has always been first class. Long may it be so.

There was general disappointment last week after our performance against Pontypool. Everyone agrees that the team did not do themselves justice, and they will be anxious to show their true form today. Still, we gained those precious two points, and this is the best start we have had in the League so far. Funny only game these days, innit?

Our main sponsors, Just Rentals, will present their cheque for this season before the kick off today. Bernard Jones, Gerald Coleman, and their fellow directors and staff, have built this company up into one of the leaders in electrical retailing in South Wales. Their only real competition comes from the huge national and multinational chains, which is a remarkable achievement. At times they must have felt a bit like Ponty, as they battled to establish themselves in the "top four" (or is it five now?). They always knew how good they were, but it may have taken some others a little longer to recognise it.

Just Rentals has always been involved in sports sponsorship, and provides help and encouragement for many of its employees in various sporting arenas. As we all know, two of those employees are none other than Neil Jenkins and Dale McIntosh, otherwise known as the "High Fronteras". Just Rentals is a company which combines community spirit with commercial success, and Pontypridd has benefitted greatly from their support. When sponsorship deals are mentioned in the press you often read about five and even six figure deals. Believe you me, no club in South Wales is better served by its main sponsors than Pontypridd R.F.C.

Thanks again JR.

Despite the somewhat stuttering start on the field, the Club has got off to an excellent beginning this season. Membership is up greatly on last year, and the demand from members for South Africa tickets is overwhelming. If you are thinking of joining, do it now. If you want a ticket for the SA game, then stand tickets are still available for **stand ticket members only**, at today's game. Ground tickets will be on sale to everyone today, and will be available also at the Clubhouse every night next week.

The match mascot for today is Mr. Alun Davies of 2 Kirkhouse Street, Graig, Pontypridd. Alun has just turned four on the 15th of August, and is the nephew of Beverley Kay, treasurer of the Supporters Club. Alun attends Graig-y-Wion School, and is a keen supporter. Welcome to him and his family.

The match sponsor for today is Egan Waste Services, of Berw Road, Pontypridd. Mr. Danny Egan is a long time supporter of Pontypridd RFC, and we hope he and his guests enjoy themselves with us this afternoon. Thank you Danny.

The match ball sponsors for the game are: Thomas Travel, Pontypridd; Focus Publications, Swansea; Collins Dairies Ltd., Llantrisant; and Young and Phillips, Accountants, of Treorchy. Many thanks to David John, Glan Davies, Mervyn Collins, and Messrs Young and Phillips for their support.

The Man of the Match award is sponsored by JBG Building Services Ltd, and we thank them also for their involvement.

The lucky programme prize is £10.00, and the winner can collect their money from Keith Lewis at the supporters shop after the match. In addition, there is a prize of a Rotary gents watch kindly donated by Mark Newbury of Hooper and Rose, Pontypridd. This also can be collected from Keith Lewis after the match.

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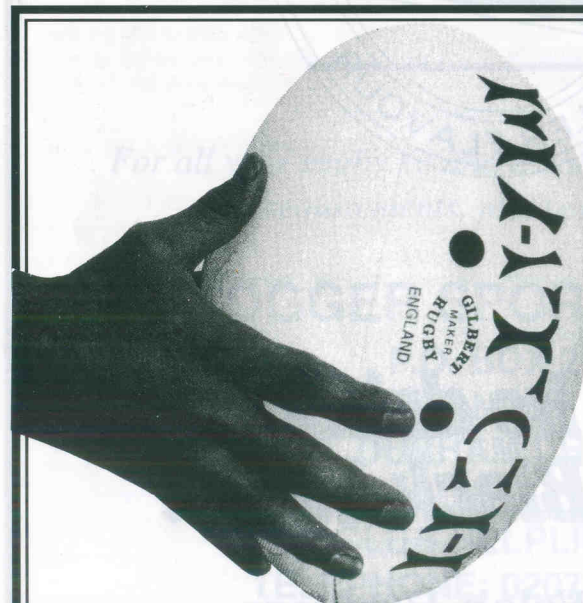
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THE VIEW FROM HERE...

This is an urgent message for Mr. Ian Macaskill of West London. Would Mr. Macaskill, last heard of on holiday in Cyprus, please report for duty at the Meteorological Office. Our treasurer needs you.

You see Mr. Macaskill, that nice Mr. Fish was on duty when we played Cardiff last season. Remember? Last September in Sardis it was wet, very wet. The faint hearted watched us live on television, the treasurer moaned and we lost as well.

Then there was that mud wrestling contest at the Arms Park in the December league match. Neil Jenkins' socks came off the field weighing more than our front row put together. He stood one up to dry and now Dennis John carries his golf clubs in it.

And what about cup Semi final day in Newport in April, when the wind blew our hopes away? Not even sucking a fisherman's friend could keep the cold at bay. It's all down to Fish, Mr. Macaskill.

So come on Ian how about a nice day for what is a very important game. It may well be that come next April one of these sides will be looking back and saying "What if..."

We did last year. What if it hadn't rained last September? Would we really have given away that first try. What if it hadn't been a Flanders job at the Arms. Would the game have been different? Could Cardiff have withstood the Ponty packroller without the protection of the Rodney gale?

So it's all down to you Ian. A dry ground please, a light breeze and some late summer sunshine would do nicely. We're on tele again and it's tough having to watch the treasurer crying in the rain.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

with
PETER JOHNSON
RADIO WALES

One of the beauties of radio is that size is not important. To the listener you can be tall dark and handsome in the mould of the young Connery. Equally, they might have you down as a ringer for Patrick Moore or Kermit the Frog.

Modestly, I have to confess that I am ruggedly handsome. I once held the title of Junior Adonis of the Taff Flood Plain. (Under five foot six division). In strict training, I could crush a shelled walnut with my bare hands. To help you get the picture, I once ran into Des Dutfield the former NUM president in Marks and Spencer. He wanted to introduce me to Mrs. Dutfield, who I had never met.

'Say something to her Pete', said Des. 'Anything you like.' I assumed the microphone position and crooned across the bread counter. 'It's four o'clock. Welcome to four five six with Peter Johnson.'

She was quick on the uptake. 'Well, its that big voice in my Kitchen every afternoon isn't it?' 'Yes' I said proudly 'It is'.

'Well'. She said 'You're a bit of a disappointment in the flesh'.

The experience came back to me the other day watching France and Australia on the box. There wasn't anyone on the field under five feet ten. Have the modern players all got to be line-out jumpers? Rugby always was a game for all sizes. Maybe its true that a good big un will beat a good little un, but I'd rather watch Gerald Davies than Tuigamala. Maybe these days, Gerald would be sent to the weight room for a year. And as for Dai Parker, well he could always be the pre match mascot at the Gnoll.

*The views are those of the author,
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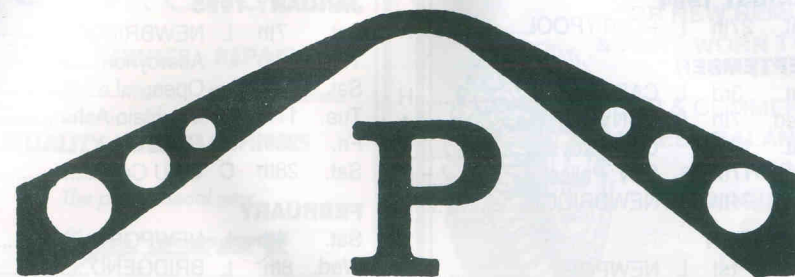
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AUGUST 1994

Sat. 27th L PONTYPOOL.....H

SEPTEMBER

Sat. 3rd L CARDIFF.....H

Wed. 7th L DUNVANT.....A

Sat. 10th Cross Keys.....A

Sat. 17th S.W. Police.....H

Sat. 24th L NEWBRIDGE.....H

OCTOBER

Sat. 1st L NEWPORT.....A

Sat. 8th Penarth.....A

Sat. 15th L BRIDGEND.....H

Sat. 22nd Aberavon.....H

Sat. 29th L ABERTILLERY.....A

NOVEMBER

Sat. 5th L NEATH.....A

Sat. 12th L SWANSEA.....H

*Sat. 19th -

Tue. 22nd South Africa.....H

DECEMBER

Sat. 3rd L TREORCHY.....H

Sat. 10th L PONTYPOOL.....A

Sat. 17th C WRU Cup.....H/A

Sat. 24th L CARDIFF.....A

Sat. 31st L DUNVANT.....H

* Date of Llanelli (A) League match not yet finalised.

L denotes League C denotes Cup Round I denotes International

JANUARY 1995

Sat. 7th L NEWBRIDGE.....A

Tue. 10th Abercynon.....H

Sat. 14th Open.....

Tue. 17th Mountain Ash.....A

Fri. 20th Cross Keys.....H

Sat. 28th C WRU Cup.....H/A

FEBRUARY

Sat. 4th L NEWPORT.....H

Wed. 8th L BRIDGEND.....A

Sat. 11th -

Tue. 14th Penarth.....H

Fri. 17th Bristol.....A

Sat. 25th L ABERTILLERY.....H

MARCH

Fri. 3rd Open.....A

Sat. 11th L NEATH.....H

Tue. 14th S. W. Police.....A

Fri. 17th Wales "A" v Ireland "A"

Sat. 25th C WRU Cup.....H/A

APRIL

Sat. 1st L SWANSEA.....A

Sat. 8th C Blaina.....A

Sat. 15th L LLANELLI.....H

Sat. 22nd C London Welsh.....H

Sat. 29th L TREORCHY.....A

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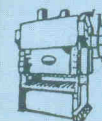
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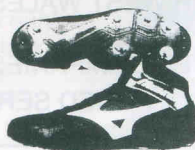
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THE PERSONAL COLUMN

It may be like pulling teeth at Sardis Road, but - come on, be fair - competition never hurt anyone.

That is why Treorchy (Rhondda) RFC is good news for Pontypridd RFC.

At least, that's my view. You may feel differently on this rather sensitive issue about Heineken League first division rugby north of the M4 . . . but I'm not going to bale out now.

On the basis that it takes one to know one, I even feel confident that next time I cover a game at Sardis Road, I will be made as welcome as always. After all, it was Ponty who set the pace in what has become neighbourly combat.

This club has always been in the top flight, but not in the top of the top flight. Never quite

able to achieve the cups and caps that flow to the Arms Park, to St. Helen's, Stradey Park and to the Gnoll.

With a tremendous effort - and all congratulations on succeeding so superbly - Pontypridd bridged that gap last season. This club was equal of the Famous Four.

Where you led, Treorchy have followed. Their business plans and publicity material almost bend in half my fragile postie; she seems to straighten after dumping the giant envelopes in my porch.

It must be said that I have never encountered any club in rugby football so deliberate in its intent to take its place at the sport's high table. Its committee and coaches have already decided where they will finish this

season . . . well, with a margin of one.

"A fifth or sixth place," says chairman Neil Hutchings. "If it's sixth no more than three points behind the fifth club."

"It may sound harsh," agrees the former Wales B centre, "but that is the reality of the time scale imposed on us. We believe that the Super League will exist two seasons from now and we aim to be there.

"It seems that five clubs from Wales will win places. We are targeting every effort towards being one of them. It will be easier to guarantee a top five place in 1995-96 if we come in sixth, rather than 10th this season.

The old hands will laugh at this vision of crystal clarity. And yet, and yet . . .

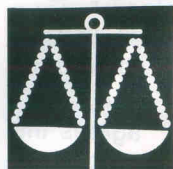
After all, Treorchy have delivered on the nail all along the line. They predicted promotion from third to second and then second to first with total accuracy; they have recruited impressively for this new season.

Brash (their zebra shirts seem to have charged straight off a Kenya game reserve), bold and bright, their arrival is going to enhance interest in the first division.

I do hope this explanation of the 1994-95 rugby facts of life as I see them will not alienate me from my many friends at Ponty. I would hate to descend from the press seats at the top of the stand rather faster than I climbed those steps that seem to grow steeper every season.

Michael Boon writes for the Western Mail.

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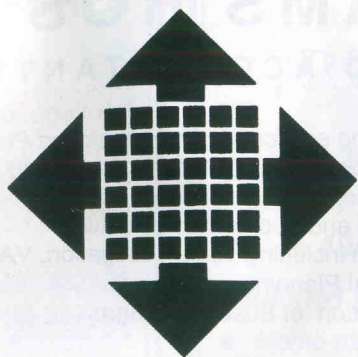
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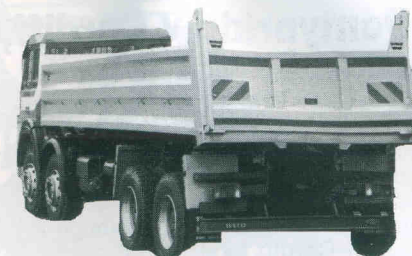
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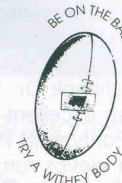


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Water Under the Bridge

Pontypridd v Cardiff, October 12th 1921

There was a large crowd at Ynysangharad field to watch this game between the local rivals, Cardiff came flushed with their victory over Swansea on the previous Saturday, and on paper should have severely trounced the home team. The result however, although in favour of Cardiff by 10 clear points, reflected great credit upon the home team, whose line was only crossed twice late in the game.

In the opening skirmishes the Pontypridd forwards, led by Edwards, made a splendid dash for the line, but the Cardiff fullback Dr. Wallace saved his side with an excellent clearance. A minute later for Pontypridd Pitman was conspicuous with a clever run, but again the visitors were saved, this time by Dangerfield, with a kick to touch.

Some commendable open play followed, in the course of which it became clear that Cardiff were a well balanced side. From a scrum on the halfway line Pontypridd's G. Morgan passed to his threequarters, and Pitman just failed to cross the line by a mere yard after a movement in which the whole line handled the ball. Relief came to the visitors from the throw-in, and a forward rush took play well into the Pontypridd half. During this movement G. Morgan, who had been playing a great game, received a nasty gash over his eye and had to leave the field.

Play was pretty even up to halftime, but Cardiff's fitness served them well in the second half. However, their superiority could also be attributed to the fact that Pontypridd had been reduced to fourteen men. Further misfortune was to hit the home team when Stock, who had move to inside half to replace the injured Morgan, was also forced to leave the field.

The home forwards were now reduced to six men, but they were in persistent mood and repeatedly attacked Cardiff. In the third quarter Pitman was prominent, his well known sprinting ability being a valuable asset to Pontypridd. On several occasions he was unlucky not to cross over for a try, but at other times he seemed to lack the killer instinct. The visitors eventually asserted themselves, and D. Davies scored a magnificent try converted by Dr. Wallace. Just before the final whistle Dangerfield scored another converted try.

Pontypridd are to be congratulated on their plucky fight against the odds. Had they kept their full side on the field for the whole of the game, the result might have been different. The home supporters were delighted to run Cardiff so close, and this should spur the side on for the future. Final score Pontypridd Nil, Cardiff Ten.

Researched by Gareth Harris

Quick Quiz

Find these advertisements in the programme:

1. This ad features a festival, a guard or protector, a constellation, and a city in Spain
2. This ad offers you a moving experience under the bridge.
3. I bet this advertiser's work doesn't involve binding leaves
4. If you need help in constructing the name of this advertiser then bring the king to what sounds like a fiery furnace.

If you think that you know the answer then send them to Alun Granfield, Pontypridd RFC, The Clubhouse, Sardis Road, A prize of £10.00 will be offered to the first correct answer opened on Thursday, the 8th of September.

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