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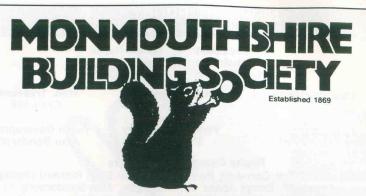
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Rodney Review

by Willis Huntley

TURNING POINT FOR NEWPORT?

There is no point in cloaking the fact that Newport Rugby Club could hardly have made a more disappointing, or rather depressing, start to their Heineken League programme. They were defeated by two clubs who finished below them in the first division last season, and one of those defeats was inflicted on them in a colourless match on their own ground.

Fortunately, however, Newport managed to jump off the slippery slope at Abertillery, where they proved too resourceful for the promoted Western Valley club. Another source of satisfaction was that Newport were able to put themselves on the try trail, though they were restricted to one.

Perhaps it is not too much to hope that their victory over Abertillery will prove to be the turning point in the fortunes of Newport, whose squad should be feeling a little more confident.

Nevertheless, Newport face some formidable hurdles in their next four league matches — Bridgend and Neath away and Pontypridd and Swansea at Rodney Parade. Yet they can be heartened by Pontypool's victory over Swansea and Pontypridd's defeat at Dunvant!

Newport have announced that they are trying to secure some reinforcements, but whether they will arrive in time for this heavy schedule will obviously depend on a number of factors.

GOING ON AND ON . .

Throughout the years I have written a great deal about the loyalty and performances of David Waters, but it seems as though much more will have to be penned after his stirring efforts against Abertillery last week.

Indeed, there is no end to the service that the 37-year-old second row forward is ready to give to the club for whom he has figured prominently—and loyally—for two decades. His appearance for Newport at Abertillery was his 682nd for the club's first team matches. He may yet reach his 700th appearance before the season is over!

Tonight Cardiff make the first of their three visits to Rodney Parade, but it is a club fixture not a league engagement. This extra game has been arranged because of the way clubs have to fit in with the requirements of World Cup matches involving Wales, who tomorrow will play Romania. Cardiff are, therefore, without Mike Rayer, Mike Hall, Hemi Taylor and Emyr Lewis, who are in Bucharest.

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TODAY'S VISITORS . . .

WELCOME BACK. CARDIFF

Cardiff, one of the most famous rugby clubs in the world, were certainly in luck's way when the first division of the Heineken League was increased from ten to twelve clubs at the start of the 1992-93 season. For the previous season they had finished their league campaign in ninth place and could have been relegated to the second divison had the membership of the first division not been increased!

Since then, however, Cardiff, as expected, lost no time in reviving their fortunes. The following season they went close to winning the first division championship, finishing only three points behind Llanelli, and last season they finished fourth after scoring more tries than any other club in the four divisions.

But their outstanding 1993-4 achievement was winning the SWALEC Cup after defeating Pontypool, Oakdale, Bridgend, South Wales Police, Pontypridd and finally Llanelli, winners of the trophy for the previous three seasons.

And once again Cardiff have been well represented in the Wales international team. Last season Mike Hall, Mike Rayer, Nigel Walker, Adrian Davies, Mike Griffiths and Simon Hill all played in one or more international matches, and most of these, as well as Hemi Taylor, went to Canada and the South Seas islands with the Wales team. Further honours await them during the present season.

Glory days have returned to Arms Park and there seems little doubt that Cardiff will again be ruling the roost as they did in the days of those great wearers of the blue and black jerseys, Jack Matthews, Barry John, Bleddyn Williams, Gareth Edwards, Cliff Morgan and Gerald Davies!

Cardiff's most notable close signing was, of course, Emyr Lewis, who moved from Llanelli just before the start was about to begin. Lewis, who spent seven seasons at Stradey Park, has been capped 28 times by Wales. and was in the Welsh team who toured Canada and the South Seas islands during the summer. He is a policeman serving in the Dyfed Powys force.

Another of Cardiff's summer signings is second row Mike Voyle, who switched from Newport after playing for two other Gwent clubs, Newbridge and Ebbw Vale. He has spent some time in New Zealand under a sponsorship scheme.

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Newport Rugby Club's former utility player John Anderson did not win a Welsh cap, but that was undoubtedly due to the fact that he sustained a broken leg during a Welsh international trial in 1961–2. Before that mishap he had given some outstanding performances both as a centre and forward, and despite his long lay-off that season he managed to collect ten tries in only 16 matches.

In fact, his versatility was such that during his career at Rodney Parade he played in almost every position in the Newport first team, even propping in the Snelling Sevens, though his normal berth was first at left centre and then wing forward.

"I joined Newport Rugby Club straight from school, and played for their youth team for two seasons before being picked to play for the first team against Coventry, a selection which gave me considerable pride," he commented.

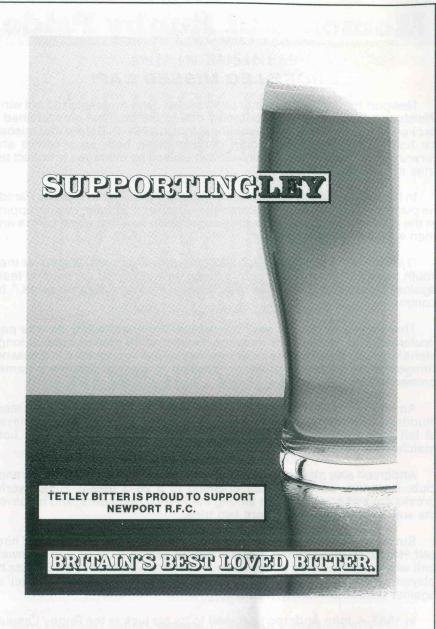
There were, of course, very many other events of which he was particularly proud. In 1963, for instance, he scored 16 tries to break a long-standing club record for the most tries registered by a forward in a season. Altogether he scored 56 tries for Newport in his 110 first team games between 1955 and 1963.

Among his most memorable matches were those against the starstudded Barbarians in 1961 and 1963. In the first of those games he played at left centre and in the second he appeared at wing forward. In both matches he gave stirring performances.

Anderson also played a notable part in Newport's team over the French club, Bayonne, who were sent crashing to a 20–3 defeat. His powerful breaks caused consternation among the French defenders, and he paved the way for colleagues to score two tries.

But it was not only for Newport that John Anderson distinguished himself. He played for Crawshays against strong teams in Devon and Cornwall, and when he was called up for National Service with the Welsh Guards he played for Surrey and the British Army against the French Army, as well as against various university teams.

In 1963–4 John Anderson decided to try his luck in the Rugby League. He joined Huddersfield and stayed with them until 1970 when he returned to Newport. During his stay in the North he played against various representative sides, including the Rest of the World XV, Young England and Fiji. Today he maintains his interest in Welsh rugby and is a vice-president of Crawshays and a member of Newport Former Players Association.



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NEWS FROM THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB...

Your committee for this season is: **Chairman** Dave Smirthwaite; **Vice-Chairman** Alan Margerison; **Secretary** Jane Wright; **Treasurer** Jeff Wright; **Publicity Officer** Graham Stead; Bryn Davies, Chris Hill, Hywel Lewis and new members Roy Price and Chris Thomas.

We are all happy to meet and talk to fellow supporters and can usually be found in the Rodney Hall after home games.

Now is the time to join the Supporters Club or renew your membership for the 1994/95 season. Membership is just £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children. Benefits of membership include a discount on coach trips and advance information on special events, which we hope will include 'meet the players' evenings. So come along to the Rodney Hall after the game and join.

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RODNEY ROUNDUP . . .

Belated congratulations to Newport prop forward Mark Davis. He became a married man in July, his bride being Tracey Griffiths. Mark is a police officer serving in the Gwent Constabulary.

Incidentally, he is not the only member of his family who plays rugby. His younger brother, Gareth, a student at Newcastle Polytechnic, is a scrum half and has played several times for Newcastle Gosforth. One day he may follow his brother into the Newport team!

Gloucester, the only English team to play Newport home and away this season, have re-signed Mike Teague from Moseley and snapped up two other Moseley players — forwards John Morris and Chris Raymond — as well as Lee Osborne, the Berry Hill outside half.

In his first three matches for Newport, outside half Byron Hayward scored 38 points, 33 of them coming from penalty goals. Last season he scored 236 league points for Abertillery.

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Richard TURNER	Mewnwr	13	Scrum-half
Sean DUGGAN	Prop Rhydd	1	Prop
Gary HICKS	Bachwr	2	Hooker
Andrew WILLIAMS	Prop Tyn	3	Prop
Mark WORKMAN	Clo	4	Lock
David WATERS	Clo	5	Lock
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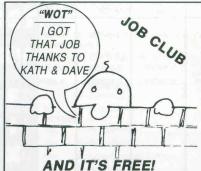
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RODNEY WHO'S WHO . . .

No. 2: ALUN CARTER

Rugby, important as it may be, has not been uppermost in the mind of Newport Rugby Club flanker Alun Carter in recent months. He has been hard at work studying at Cardiff Institute of Education, and his efforts have certainly been well worthwhile, for he has gained an honours degree.

Carter, who has now been appointed a research assistant at the Institute, plans to continue studying for further honours, but happily for Newport they will not restrict his rugby activities during his fifth season at Rodney Parade.

Carter is one of the most experienced players in the Newport squad. He joined them from Pontypool, with whom he gained a Welsh B cap against Italy, and after moving to Newport he was selected by Wales for their fivenations championship matches with England at Cardiff and Scotland at Murrayfield.

Carter has also sampled French and New Zealand rugby. He spent some time playing for the French club, Millau, and he toured New Zealand with the British Combined services and British police team.

International honours, of course, went his way before he broke into senior rugby. While a student at Kelly College, Tavistock, he led the Welsh Schools senior group team to a Grand Slam success with victories over France, Scotland, Ireland and England.

His interest in rugby was greatly encouraged by his father, who was also a former player. Brian Carter senior played for St Luke's College, which produced some many outstanding players, as well as Taunton. The Somerset selectors also picked him for a number of matches in the English county championship, and awarded him a county cap.

W.H.

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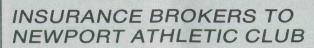


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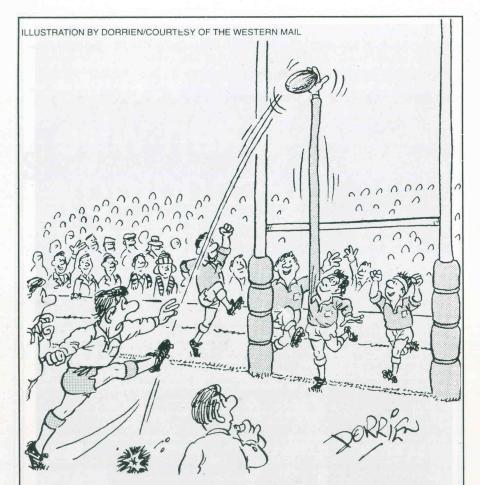
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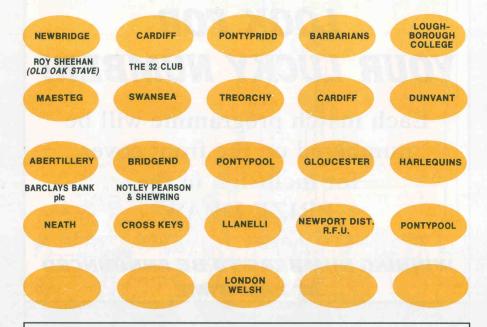
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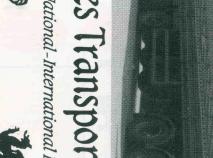
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Date	Team	Venue	Date		Team	Venue
AUGUST 19: Wed. 24—C: Sat. 27—D SEPTEMBEF Sat. 3—AI Sat. 10—M Sat. 17—Bi Mon. 19—C: Sat. 24—E: OCTOBER Sat. 1—C: Sat. 15—PC Sat. 22—M Sat. 29— NOVEMBER Sat. 19—C Tue. 22—G Tue. 22—G Tue. 26—Pc DECEMBER Sat. 3—C	94 hepstow unvant Ath	Away 13–3 Home 24–1 Away 15–3 Away 29–1 Home Away Home Away Home Away Home Away Home Away Home Away Away Home Away Away Away Away Away Away Away Away	2 Sat. 5 Sat. Sat. Sat.	14—Ross 21—Glam 28—Caldi RUARY 4—Gloud 11—Cove 17—Usk 25—Swan 10CH 3—Ponty 11—Llane 17—Glam 25—Maes IIL 1— 8—Gloud 15—Ponty 22—Mose	ol Utd	Away Away " Away " Away Home Home Home Home Away Home Home Home Home
Sat. 17—C Sat. 24—A Mon. 26—N	oventry Utdbercynon Athewport H.S.O.B	Away Home Home				

Date	Team	Venue	Date		Team	Venue
Sat. 10—Pontyl Sat. 17—Pontyl Sat. 24—Bridge OCTOBER Sat. 1— Sat. 8—Lough Sat. 15—Pontyl Sun. 23—Bourn	borough Colle	Away Home ge Home Away Away	Sat. Sun. Sat. Sat. Sat. Sat.	14—Wa: 15—Brit 21—Inte 28—Bla: RUARY 4—Swa: 11—Lou 18—Inte 22—Dur	ntypool	Away es Away Home ege Away Away
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			MAY Sat.	6—Abe	ertillery	Away

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BARBARIANS V SOUTH AFRICA - DUBLIN	03 DECEMBER '94
ENGLAND ASHES TO AUSTRALIA	DEC '94 - JAN '95
ENGLAND V IRELAND - LANSDOWNE ROAD	21 Jan '95
FRANCE V WALES - PARIS	21 Jan '95
SCOTLAND V WALES - MURRAYFIELD	04 Mar '95
CATHAY PACIFIC HONG KONG SEVENS	25/26 MAR '95
RUGBY UNION WORLD CUP - SOUTH AFRICA	MAY/JUNE '95
GB RUGBY LEAGUE V AUSTRALIA SERIES WEMBLEY * LEEDS * OLD TRAFFORD	Oct/Nov '95
ENGLAND CRICKET INAUGRAL RETURN TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA	JAN '96
GB RUGBY LEAGUE TOUR TO AUSTRALIA	1996

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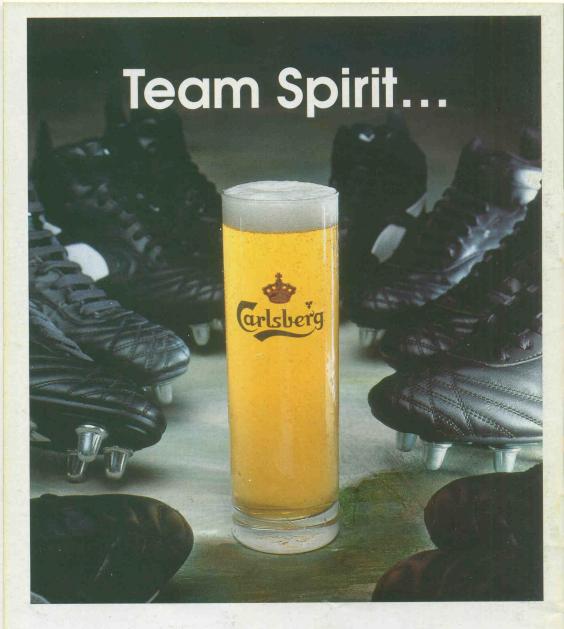
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