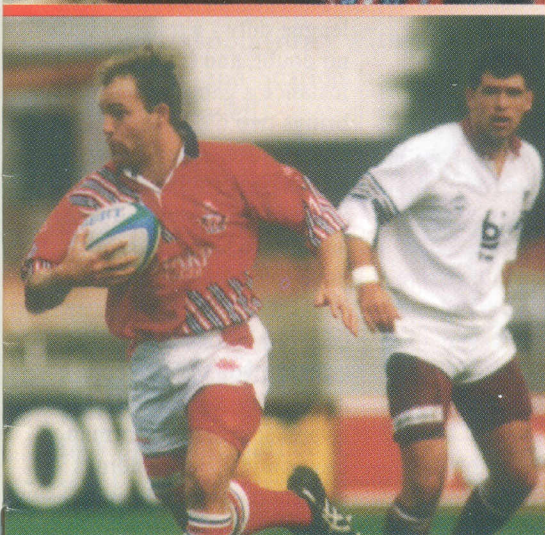
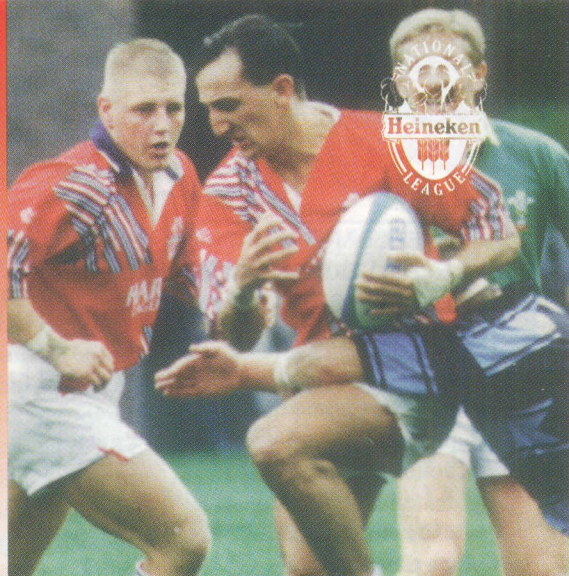
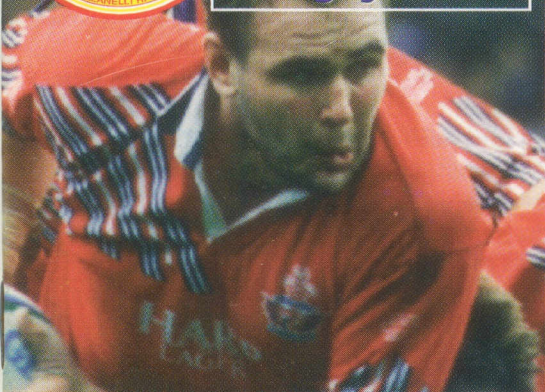




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PROGRAMME

Welcome to Stradey Park
Croeso i Barc y Strade



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**Allan Evans
(Carmarthen)**

Match Mascot
Christopher Bartle

LLANELLI R.F.C.

Cardiff

Date: Saturday, 4th February, 1995
Kick off: 2.30 p.m.

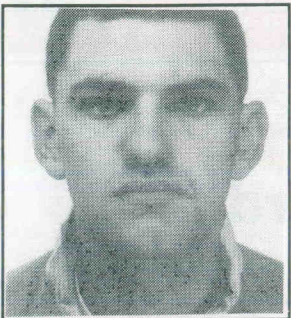
Comment

WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS OF CARDIFF R.F.C.

In the last home match programme you will no doubt recall that we published a photograph of a lady speaking with H.R.H. Prince Charles. Well surprise, surprise, it turned out to be Mrs. Lilian Thomas, wife of former Scarlet Mr. Rees Thomas. My thanks to Mr. Gareth Hughes, our press officer for identifying Mrs. Thomas and for "doing the honours" in presenting the photograph to her.

Question: When was the last time that the Scarlets fielded a team including two players with double barrel surnames.

Answer: Last month at St. Helens Swansea. Hugh Williams-Jones and Guy Manson-Bishop (pictured



here) both packed down for the Scarlets on 14th January. You know all about Hugh, I'm sure; but for the record Guy who "guested" for us from Newport was born on 3/8/73, he weights over 17 stone and is 6 ft 7" tall. He recently appeared for the Barbarians against the touring South Africans in Dublin at the end of their tour last December.

When Wales went to Paris last month it was a case of woe-la-la for Gareth Llewellyn and his team. Their two-decade record of woe continued as they slipped to a tenth successive defeat. The reigning Five Nations champions were simply no match for the French, who lived up to their tag as this year's favourites for the title with two sparkling tries.

Welsh hopes, of course, were not helped by the unfortunate injury to Ricky Evans.

Last Saturday, Llanelli (and Wales) received a long awaited boost with both Ieuan and Nigel coming through their comeback game in atrocious conditions at Abernant Park, Glynneath, which saw the Scarlets progress to the

next round of the cup.

Max Boyce's team were never in awe and made the Scarlets work hard for their place in the next round. Credit must go to Glynneath as they stuck to their guns and made life very difficult for the "Cup Kings".

Today we welcome Cardiff as we return to league duty - a tough fixture no doubt, and in this instance a game which brings two old friends, Derwyn Jones and Emyr Lewis back to Stradey. They will no doubt be anxious to show that they have lost none of their skills. Belated congratulations Derwyn on winning your Welsh cup.

Finally, what do Ricky Evans, journalists Norman Lewis and J.B.G. Thomas have in common? Well, all three have recently been hospital patients and undergone surgery. Get well soon wishes is the order of the day to all three gentlemen.

Croeso cynnes i chi gyd a mwynhewch y gêm.

Les williams

Guest writer
Frank Hennessy

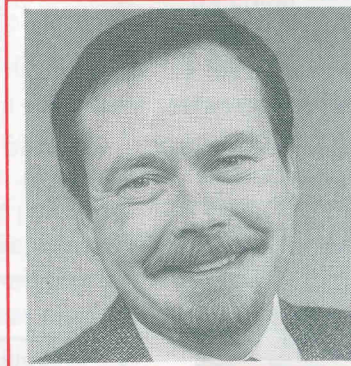


As most of you will probably know, I am Cardiff born and Cardiff bred. It will therefore come as no surprise that my heart is with the Black and Blues and always will be. However, I do have a rather special place in my heart for Llanelli, not least because of my long and happy association with fellow broadcaster and Scarlets hero Ray Gravell.

As a Llanelli boy Grav doesn't know the meaning of the words "fear" and "defeat". There are hundreds of other words he doesn't know the meaning of as well, but we won't go into that now. Suffice to

say I have been conditioned over the years to accept that, on occasion, "West is best".

I have certainly had some magical moments in Llanelli. I recall one visit in particular when Roy Noble and I came to do an "On the Road" programme for B.B.C. Radio Wales and we were graced with the presence of The Llanelli Male Voice Choir who sang magnificently and added greatly



to the success of the programme.

The most poignant moment of all came when a soloist sang, with just a light harmonic hum in the background, an inspired version of The Reverend Ely Jenkins prayer. It was, at the same time, a true petition to the Almighty for assistance against the visiting All Blacks and an absolutely hilarious parody of the attitude of some ultra fanatical rugby supporters.

I really didn't know whether to laugh or cry. In the event I think I probably did both. What this incident did do was to convey to me, and the listeners, what rugby football means to the town and how it is part of the very fabric of life here in Llanelli.

I have no idea whether "West will be best" this afternoon, or whether "The beast from the east" will come out on top. What I do know is this. People from both Llanelli and Cardiff will come together to share a great love of a great game played between two great Welsh clubs.

Go to it boys, and may the better team win.

Stradey Welcomes CAERDYDD

IT'S A FACT....

Founded as an association football club, Cardiff turned to rugby in 1876, four years before the formation of the W.R.U. as a result of an amalgamation of the Glamorgan and Wanderers Football clubs. In 1951, 48,500 went to the Arms Park to see Cardiff play Newport, a record for a club match anywhere in the world at the time. After playing one season in black jerseys with a skull and cross bones as a symbol, the club introduced its present colours.

Cardiff's influence on the game in its early years was considerable. Under the leadership of Frank Hancock, it was the first team to play successfully with four three-quarters. Introduced in 1883-84 this style is played by all teams today. Among the clubs greatest victories are those against South Africa (1/1/07), Australia (27/9/47) and New Zealand (21/11/53).

FOR THE RECORD

Scarlets LEAGUE record against Cardiff

	P	W	D	L	Pts F-A	Tries F-A
Home	4	3	1	-	83-57	11-5
Away	5	3	-	2	69-115	11-17
Total	9	6	1	2	152-172	22-22

LAST TEN MEETINGS

				<i>Llanelli Scores First</i>
1990/91	League	H	Won	22-16
	League	A	Lost	0-43
1991/92	League	A	Won	28-22
	League	H	Won	22-6
1992/93	League	H	Won	20-16
	League	A	Won	18-13
1993/94	League	A	Won	15-9
	League	H	Drew	19-19
	Cup Final		Lost	8-15
1994/95	League	A	Lost	8-28

Cardiff

FACT FILE

- **Founded:** 1876
- **Most Capped Player:**
Gareth O. Edwards - 53 consecutive caps + 10 British Lions.
- **Western Mail Champions:**
1898, 1906, 1907, 1909, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1948, 1949, 1953, 1955, 1958, 1982.
- **W.R.U. Cup Winners:**
1981, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1994
- **Snelling Sevens Champions:**
1955, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1984.

Heineken League



STAR PROFILE



ADRIAN DAVIES

Club: Cardiff

Caps: 7

Age: 25



WALES' number 10 jersey is possessed by Neil Jenkins at the moment, but waiting in the wings is the man who has inspired Cardiff to lead this season's Heineken First Division championship race.

Adrian Davies, the former Cambridge University captain, has racked up 128 points this season as Cardiff have moved clear at the top on try count.

Davies captained Wales at under-18, under-19 and under-21 levels after turning his back on soccer as a teenager, following the offer of trials from both Leeds United and Sheffield Wednesday, - the team supported by the Cardiff programme editor, and your truly. What a coincidence. Obviously Duncan knows his soccer!

A former Neath player, he skippered Cambridge to a 17-11 victory in the 110th Varsity Match, kicking nine points, and last season helped Cardiff lift the Welsh Cup.

"We've been there or thereabouts for the last two seasons since the arrival of Alex Evans, being runners-up two years ago and fourth in the last campaign," he says.

"We knew, however, that despite our building up a good lead earlier in the season, Pontypridd had a game in hand and had to play us and it's now all back in the melting pot."

Davies' position this season as fourth in the points-scoring list is all the more remarkable as he wasn't Cardiff's kicker for the first few games of the season.

"I didn't get the full-time kicking job until after the Treorchy game when Mike Rayer was injured," he explained, "so I'm very pleased with my total and have a chance of repeating the top spot I achieved two years ago."

Davies, a fan of league rugby, believes that for the development to continue, Welsh clubs may need to move into a British or European League in the long term.

"The Heineken League has done an admirable job in developing rugby in Wales and that of the national team, but I think we've moved into a comfort zone," he says. "The future needs to hold matches against the top sides in the rest of the British Isles and in France. We need to pit our wits against the best from every country."

Heineken League



	ABERTILLERY	BRIDGEND	CARDIFF	DUNVANT	LLANELLI	NEATH	NEWBRIDGE	NEWPORT	PONTYPOOL	PONTYPRIDD	SWANSEA	TREORCHY
ABERTILLERY		17/19			19/25	19/12	13/17	21/31		20/42	12/10	
BRIDGEND			10/34	34/28	16/3	20/20		51/7	72/14			
CARDIFF	50/13	50/20			28/8	37/9	45/8		51/0	15/23		
DUNVANT	16/15	10/6	10/27					16/6		17/15	12/20	8/19
LLANELLI	54/13			22/19				15/12	20/32	3/11	35/23	18/7
NEATH			21/3	11/11	20/10			23/25	18/12	6/27		22/20
NEWBRIDGE	15/16	14/16		16/15	3/29	8/10			13/8			
NEWPORT			6/19				6/15			3/10	9/16	16/37
PONTYPOOL	17/24			11/22		8/19		17/29		11/17	21/20	13/12
PONTYPRIDD		22/6	6/12	54/3			30/6		30/25		32/10	39/13
SWANSEA		45/15	17/13		23/16	19/27	32/13		31/10			21/16
TREORCHY	61/20	8/12	15/18		16/0	6/10	13/6					

TODAY'S OTHER FIRST DIVISION MATCHES

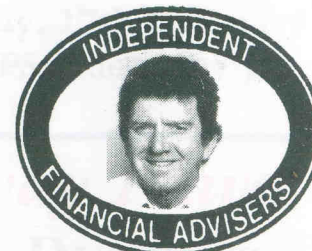
FIRST DIVISION TABLE How they stand

BRIDGEND v ABERTILLERY	P	W	D	L	T	F	A	Pts
NEATH v NEWBRIDGE	Cardiff	15	12	0	3	47	418	169 24
PONTYPRIDD v NEWPORT	Pontypridd	15	12	0	3	38	367	163 24
TREORCHY v PONTYPOOL	Neath	15	9	2	4	18	245	238 20
SWANSEA v DUNVANT	Bridgend	15	9	1	5	39	334	299 19
	Swansea	14	8	0	6	31	290	247 16
	*Llanelli	15	7	0	8	38	271	264 12
	Treorchy	14	6	0	8	24	266	213 12
	Newbridge	15	6	0	9	21	182	269 12
	Dunvant	14	5	1	8	20	200	273 11
	Pontypool	15	4	0	11	24	221	391 8
	Abertillery	15	4	0	11	21	242	411 8
	Newport	14	4	0	10	12	196	295 8

* Two points deducted

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Coming up.....

Saturday, 11th February
LONDON SCOTTISH - Kick off 2.30 p.m.
Friday, 17th February
WASPS - Kick off 7 p.m.

Due to Old Belvedere being unable to travel, the fixture arranged for 17/3/95 has unfortunately been cancelled. Llanelli will now play St. Mary's College, Dublin on this date.

Away Travel

DUNVANT

Wednesday, 8th February

Those interested in travelling by coach for this match should contact Jackie and Neil Sewell today.

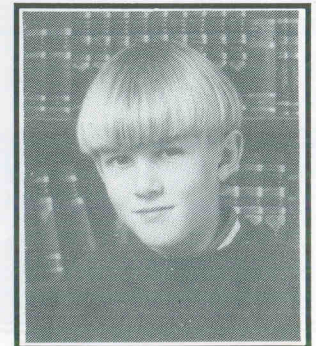
Please note that there will be no coach trip for the match at BRISTOL on Wednesday, 22nd February.

Tickets can be purchased at
Furnace Newsagents,
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Furnace,
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Tel: 757437
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or
see Jackie and Neil Sewell
today at the
Away Travel Desk
situated in the club cafe
(town end).

M A S C O T

Christopher is 10 years old and attends Cefn Cribwr Primary School where he plays rugby. His position is flanker and he captains the team alternative weeks. He also plays junior rugby for Cefn Cribwr, has a bronze award in rugby and has attended several training courses.

His favourite players are Rupert Moon, Ieuan Evans and Mark Perego.



CHRISTOPHER BARTLE

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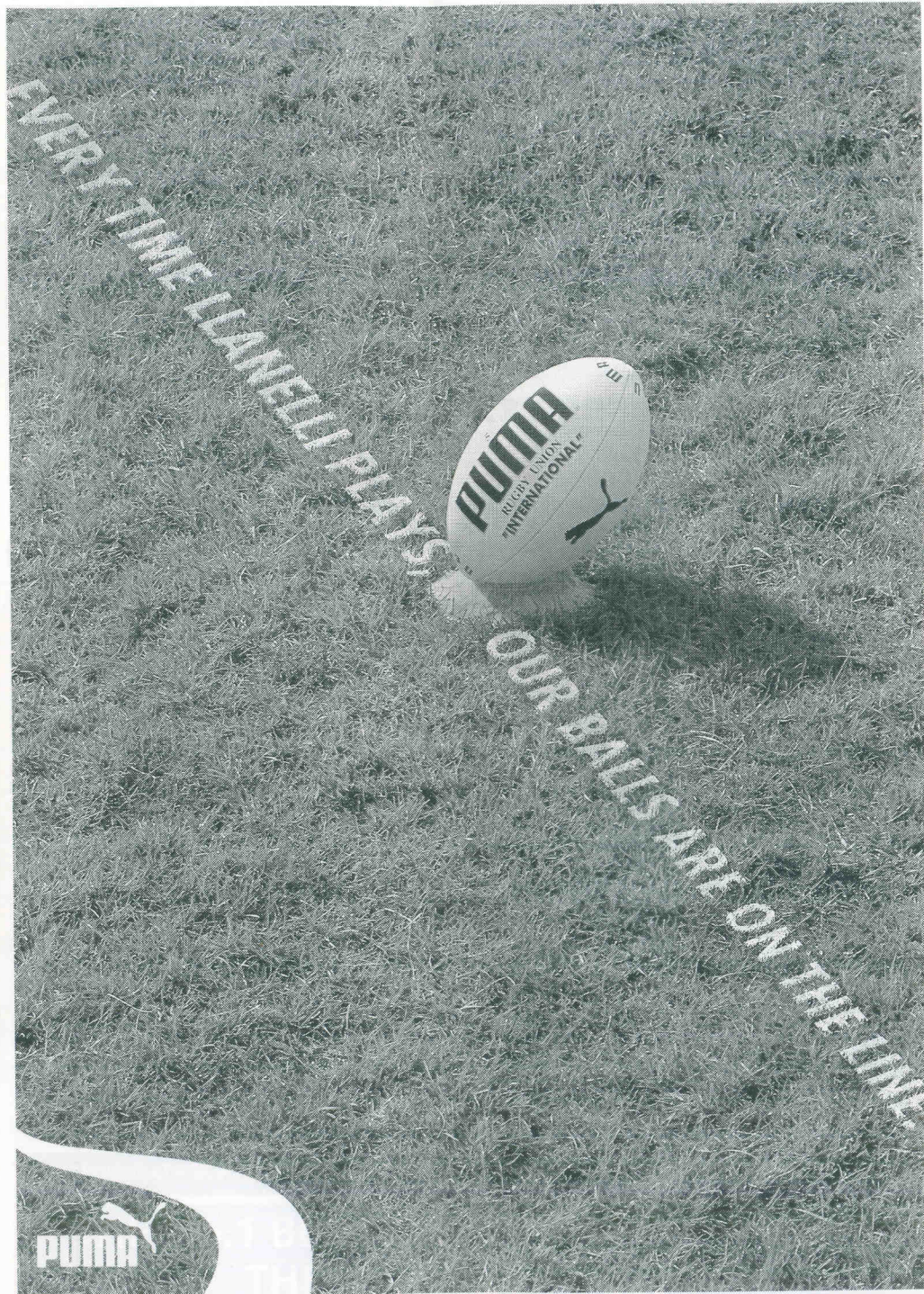
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reprint

Neil Williams selects a programme from the archives and reflects on a previous visit by today's opposition

LLANELLI 6 V 6 CARDIFF

David Townsend	15	Robin Williams
Andy Hill	14	Neil Collins
Roy Bergiers	13	Tony Williams
Ray Gravelle	12	J. Regan
Wayne Lewis	11	P. L. Jones
Gwyn Ashby	10	Barry John
Selwyn Williams	9	Gareth Edwards
Byron Gale	1	Mike Knill
Roy Thomas	2	Meirion Davies
Barry Llewelyn	3	G. Wallace
Delme Thomas (Cpt)	4	Ian Robinson
Derek Quinnell	5	Lyn Baxter
John Welch	6	Mervyn John
Hefin Jenkins	8	Roger Lane
John Vaughan	7	John Hickey (Cpt)



Rereree: Mr. Denzil Lloyd, Nantylfyllon

Friday, 26th February, 1971

With Cardiff seeking the double over Llanelli, Scarlets' pack achieved their dominance during the first-half.

The enterprising Llanelli backs, with Wayne Lewis in splendid form had plenty of chance to score, but at the interval, the two teams were equal with a penalty from Andy Hill and a drop goal by Barry John.

During the second half, Cardiff denied Scarlets a lot of possession and they went ahead with a penalty by Robin Williams.

Andy Hill saved the day for Llanelli when he equalised with a penalty.

Scoreboard:

Llanelli: Any Hill, two penalties.

Cardiff: B. John, a drop goal and R. Williams, a penalty.

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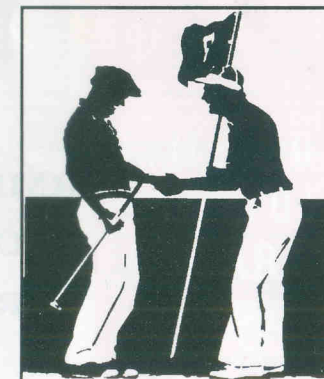
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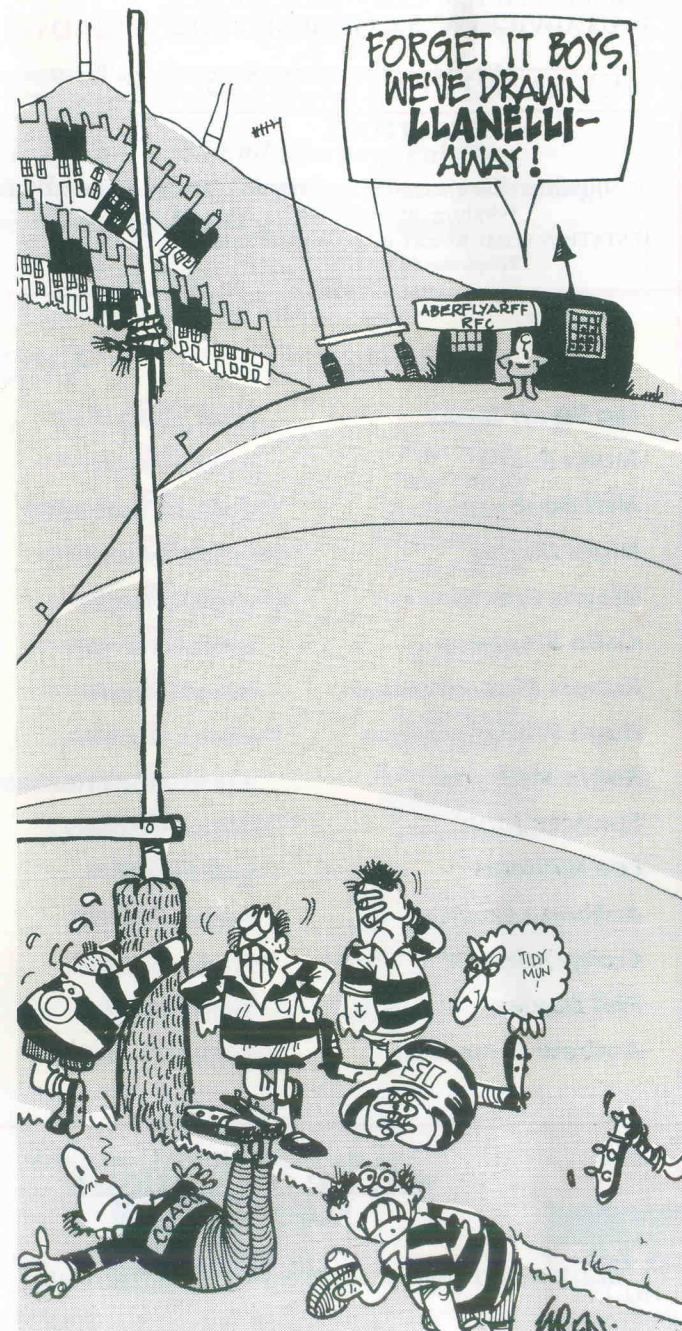


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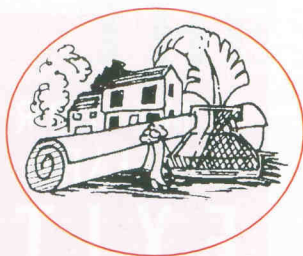
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Colin Stephens	Maswr	10	Outside Half
Rupert Moon (Captain)	Mewnwr	9	Inside Half
Hugh Williams-Jones	Y Rheng Flaen	1	Prop
Robin McBryde	Bachwr	2	Hooker
Spencer John	Y Rheng Flaen	3	Prop
Lee Williams	Clo	4	Lock
Anthony Copsey	Clo	5	Lock
Craig Quinnell	Blaenasgell	6	Flanker
Phil Davies	Wythwr	8	No. 8
Andrew Lamerton	Blaenasgell	7	Flanker

CARDIFF

Chris John	(Llanelli)
Steve Ford	Rhys Jones
Mike Hall (Captain)	Paul Young
Adam Palfrey	Ian Hembrow
Nigel Walker	Matthew Codd
Adrian Davies	Huw Harries
Andy Moore	Jason Strange
Andrew Lewis	(Cardiff)
Jonathan Humphreys	Geraint John
Lyndon Mustoe	Andy Booth
Stuart Roy	Vince Davies
Derwyn Jones	John Wakeford
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770654

Llanelli a Chaerdydd - dwy prifddinas rygbi Cymru?

gan/by Royston James "Y Cymro/Radio Ceredigion"

Fel crwytyn ysgol rown i 'wrth fy modd' yn pori trwy lyfrau gwybodaeth, yn arbennig os oedd eisiau gwybod am brif ddinasoedd y byd. Wrth gwrs rown i'n ymwybodol taw CAERDYDD oedd prifddinas Cymru, ond fel pob bachgen arall ym mhentref Cwmgors rown i'n siwr taw LLANELLI, tre'r Sospau oedd prif ddinas rygbi Cymru!

Bum i'n ddigon ffodus i fyw mewn pentref lle roedd chwaraewyr o'r clwb yn troi mas naill i Llanelli neu i Abertawe, ac os byddech chi yn 'mynd lan yn y byd' a chael swydd dda, yna yng Nghaerdydd y byddech chi yn ennill eich tamaid fel pregethwr neu darlledwr, ond ni wnaeth llawer fwrw wi prentisiaeth rygbi i glwb rygbi y brifddinas heblaw Gareth Owen Edwards, cyn fewnwr Cymru a'r Llewod a aeth i'r Coleg Addysg yno neu 'Cyncoed' fel ei elwir yng nghanol y 'chwedegau' i fod yn athro Ymarfer Corff.

Rwyn siwr yr aeth sawl cenhedlaeth o fechgyn tre' Llanelli a'r pentrefi cyfagos i Gaerdydd i 'wella eu hunain' fel y bydde eu mamau yn pregethu iddyn nhw yn gyson - y dewis oedd naill lawr y pwll glo, i'r gwaith tun neu swydd fel athro yng Nghaerdydd!

Yn sicr roedd hyn yn wir yn ystod y 'chwedegau' pan aeth cewri fel Barry John, Brian Davies a Ken Jones i Gaerdydd nid yn unig i wneud eu marc yn y byd rygbi ond i 'fynd lan yn y byd' fel y byddem ni'n dweud yng Ngwmtawe.

I fois y Gorllewin roedd yna rhyw elfen o snobdyddiaeth yn perthyn i Glwb Rygbi Caerdydd, clwb 'swanc' o rhyw fath, y 'Rolls Royce' ymhlith y clybiau, gwell gan lawer dori eu dannedd ar Barc y Strade, clwb rygbi y glowr a'r gweithiwr tun, clwb y 'Morris Minor'!

Ond tybed a'i dadl a aeth ar gyfeiliorn oedd hyn i gyd wedi'r cyfan onbai am fois y Gorllewin mi fydded traddodiad rygbi Caerdydd wedi bod tipyn yn dlotach - mae pobl yn dweud bod yn agos i dri chwarter a gefnogwyr Caerdydd wedi ei geni a'i magu o fewn tafaid carreg o Barc y Strade, lle mae cefnogwyr unilgyeiddog Llanelli yn amlwg ddigon ar y Strade mae hi fwy anodd i ddod o hyd i cefnogwr Caerdydd a'r gwir acen lydan leoll!

Ond heddiw a ninnau yng nghanol y 'nawdegau' mae'r rhod wedi troi bron yn gyfangwbl, bellach does dim rhaid i fois yr ardal fynd i Gaerdydd i wella eu hunain, yn wir mae'r gwrthwyneb yn wir, chwaraewyr y brifddinas sydd am drafaelu ar hyd yr M4 i'r Strade i chwarae rygbi, mae Huw Harries y mewnwr ifanc yn engraifft dda o hyn.

I droi at gêm y prynhawn yma, braf yw gweled Nigel a leuan yn ôl, a gobeithio gwelwn yn gwisgo crys coch Cymru yn erbyn Lloegr ar y Maes Cenedlaethol mewn pythynnos.

Yn y gêm hon yn erbyn Caerdydd ar ddiwrnod cyntaf Mis Hydref y gwnaeth leuan ddioddef yr anaf erchyll i'w bigwrn, ond diolch i sgil y llawfeddyg a ddy-falbarhad yr asgellwr ei hun, mae capten Cymru yn ôl wrth y llyw, bydd hon yn 'gêm' brawf ym mhob ystyr y gair, oherwydd fel y dywed, Delme Rhys un o feirdd Cwm Gwendraeth am rygbi ar Barc y Strade

'Mi fydd hen dîm y Sospau

Mewn sgrym yn dechrau ffrwtian

Ac yna'r bêl yn tasgu mas

Asgellwr bras yn hedfan.

Does dim eisiau i leuan setlo'r ddadl pwy yw asgellwr gorau Cymru, ond bydd yn rhaid i Llanelli a Chaerdydd setlo ddadl - pwy yw prifddinas rygbi Cymru - i Grav "West is best tybed a fydd rhywbeth a Mike Hall a'i dîm ddweud am hynny!

Llanelli and Cardiff - a tale of two rugby capitals?

As a schoolboy reared in the rugby hotbed of Cwmgors, a coalmining village at the top end of the Swansea Valley, I used to spend hours browsing through encyclopaedias or reference books, in particular to find out what were the capital cities of the world.

I knew that CARDIFF was the capital city of Wales, of course, but when it came to rugby there was no doubt, it was LLANELLI, or so I was led to believe!

My formative years were spent hero worshipping the local heroes who donned either the scarlet jersey of Llanelli or the all white jersey of Swansea. There weren't many heroes from Cwmgors who went to spread the rugby gospel in Cardiff - but there was one exception, and this happened when I was starting to play the game in the sixties, a scrum half from the 'Waun', a village which was a stone's throw from Cwmgors, a village which hired out their rugby ground to us locals - Cwmgors like Aberafan always played away from home! by the name of Gareth Edwards, who became a rugby legend in his own lifetime and who broke the rugby mould by playing for Cardiff, during his time as a student at the Cardiff Training College.

I am sure that the town of Llanelli was no different and a generation of rugby playing students went to Cardiff to 'go up in the world' as their mothers would lead them, to believe - 'What 'mam' said, always went!' it was either down the pit, into the steelworks or have a 'safe' job as a teacher in Cardiff!

This was especially true in the early sixties when rugby giants such as Barry John, Brian Davies and D. Ken Jones, went East not only to make their mark in rugby but to carve out a good career for themselves.

To us West Walians there was an element of 'snobbery' belonging to Cardiff, it was regarded as the 'Rolls Royce' of Welsh rugby clubs at that time, but to many in the outlying valleys their ambition was to cut their rugby teeth at Stradey Park - the Morris Minor of the rugby world, but just remember how reliable and popular that car was in its day!

But was this 'rivalry' only a rugby myth, after all it is still claimed that nearly threequarters of the rugby population of Cardiff hail from Llanelli, or a stone's throw away from Stradey Park - you cannot miss to see or hear the one-eyed, passionate Llanelli supporter, at Stradey, it is a little more difficult to unearth a genuine Cardiff supporter with a 'Ceerdiff' accent!

In the nineties' with the advent of the M4, the new Briton Ferry bridge, travelling East or West is no problem, as half of Llanelli's present squad will testify - such as up and coming scrum-half Huw Harries.

There always has been a healthy rivalry between the two 'rugby capitals' not as passionate perhaps as that between the 'Jacks' and 'Turks' but nevertheless of the stuff that has given Welsh rugby its unique identity.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of all rugby supporters, be it East or West when I welcome the return of both leuan and Nigel to the Llanelli line-up, hopefully this will herald their return to the Welsh team to meet England.

It was in this corresponding game back on the first Saturday in October that leuan suffered the horrific injury to his ankle, but through the skill of the medical profession and his own unflinching belief that he has returned to the game almost six weeks ahead of schedule

There is no need for either set of supporters to settle the debate as to who is the best right wing not only in Welsh but indeed world rugby but rather who can rightfully claim to be the rugby capital of Wales!

I am sure my old friend Ray Gravell will tell you 'West is best', as a West Walian who spent two years living and teaching in Cardiff I am almost persuaded by 'Grav's' parochial charm but I am sure that Mike Hall and his team, who have been frontrunners in the title race so far this season will have something to say about that, whilst there is rugby in both 'cities' long may the debate continue!

Future Five Nations Fixtures Rewritten

St. Patricks Day has caused the Five Nations Championship fixtures for 1995/96 and 1996/97 to be completely rewritten.

The Five Nations Committee have been under pressure from Ireland to avoid a home match in Dublin around March 17th.

As a result the scheduled fixtures on 16/3/96 and 15/3/97 will now be the opening games of the series in January with the remainder put back accordingly.



1996

20th January

FRANCE v ENGLAND
IRELAND v SCOTLAND

3rd February

ENGLAND v WALES
SCOTLAND v FRANCE

17th February

FRANCE v IRELAND
WALES v SCOTLAND

2nd March

IRELAND v WALES
SCOTLAND v ENGLAND

16th March

WALES v FRANCE
ENGLAND v IRELAND

1997

18th January

IRELAND v FRANCE
SCOTLAND v WALES

1st February

WALES v IRELAND
ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

15th February

FRANCE v WALES
IRELAND v ENGLAND

1st March

ENGLAND v FRANCE
SCOTLAND v IRELAND

15th March

WALES v ENGLAND
FRANCE v SCOTLAND



Llanelli RFC Management Structure

Llanelli Rugby Football Club
Stradey Park, Llanelli
Tel: (01554) 774060
Fax: (01554) 778385

President: Edward James

Chairman: Roy T. E. Bergiers

Vice Chairman: Stuart Gallacher

Secretary: Ken C. Parfitt

Hon. Treasurer: T. Meurig Jones

Management Committee:

Messrs. Hefin Jenkins,
Allan J. Lewis, Marlston Morgan,
Geoff Roberts, Gareth Thomas, Wynford Thomas,
Glan Tucker.

Team Manager:

Anthony Buchanan

Captain: Rupert Moon

Vice Captain: Nigel Davies

Coaches: Allan Lewis, Richard Jones,
Peter Herbert

Club Medical Officers:

Dr. A. I. Harries, M.B., B.Ch.,

Dr. G. Hughes, M.B., B.Ch.,

Club Physiotherapist:

David Jenkins, D.O., L.C.S.P., M.G.O.

'Scarlets' Supporters and Programme Production Section:

Les Williams

(Programme Co-ordinator and Editor)

Les Morris (Advertising),

Dorothy and Joe Lewis (Sales),

Jackie and Neil Sewell

(Supporters Travel Organisers),

(Phone 01269 870954 evenings)

David Rees (Shop/Badge Secretary),

Glyn Walters (Public Address),

All Photographs by Cliff Samuel unless otherwise stated.

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SEASON IN QUESTION



Llanelli inside half
MARK DOUGLAS
on the attack against
the 1980

All Blacks. This was
Mark's finest game
for the Stradey club
and he was
voted

Most Promising Player
of the Year by the
Welsh Rugby
Writer's Association.

WHO WON THE HONOURS?

Western Mail Champions

BRIDGEND

Welsh Brewers Cup Winners

CAERLEON

WRU Cup Winners

CARDIFF

West Wales Champions & Cup
Winners

NEW DOCK STARS

WHO WON THE FIVE
NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP?

FRANCE

Grand Slam

(Wales P4, W2, L2 in their
centenary season)

Snelling Sevens Winners

BRIDGEND

W.R.U. SECRETARY

Ray Williams became 6th
secretary of WRU on 1/5/81.

RETIREMENTS

Phil Bennett played his last
game on 18/4/81 (Llanelli v
Northampton).

ALL BLACKS IN WALES 1980

Played 5, Won 5.
Beat Cardiff 16 - 9

1980-81

Beat Llanelli 16 - 10

Beat Swansea 32 - 0

Beat Newport 14 - 3

Beat Wales 23 - 3

LLANELLI RFC COMPLETE PLAYING RECORD

Played 52, won 36, Drawn 1,
Lost 15.

CAPTAIN - Ray Gravell

CAPPED PLAYERS

Derek Quinell, Paul Ringer,
Ray Gravell, Peter Morgan
David Nicholas

CARDIFF REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO ZIMBABWE TOUR CONDITIONS

When the Cardiff team
assembled for departure from the
clubhouse early on the morning
of 28th May, 1981 they did not
know if their tour of Zimbabwe
would go ahead. The previous
evening a bombshell had been
dropped on the Arms Park club
with the news that the Zimbabwe

government had demanded
written statements from three
Cardiff players that they would
never again play in South Africa.
Malcolm Collins, the tour
manager said firmly "If it is a
condition that any of our players
have to make statements of this
nature then the tour is off. If we
arrive in Zimbabwe and find any
of our tour party are prevented
from playing then we will return
home immediately."

Cardiff made known this
decision and the tour depended
on a telephone call from
Zimbabwe before the party
would board their coach for the
journey to Gatwick Airport. The
phone call came through and the
trip was confirmed as being on.
It had been cleared by "the
highest authority and referred to
as a "misunderstanding".

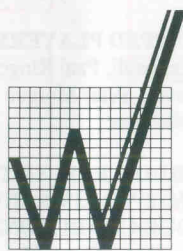
LEICESTER KEEP THIS JOHN PLAYER CUP FOR ALL TIME

Leicester's 22-15 success against
Gosforth in the John Player Cup
Final at Twickenham on 2nd
May, 1981 meant the "Tigers"
became owners of the trophy.
Three consecutive wins gave
them this reward and John Player
& Son had to find a new cup for
1981-82.

This victory was the highlight of
Leicester's centenary season and
inevitably full back 'Dusty' Hare
snapped up a try. He converted
two tries and put over two
penalty goals for a tally of 14
points. Barnwell and Kenney
provided the other tries. For
Gosforth, Cunningham crossed
for a try, Johnson converted and
landed two penalty goals and
Patrick kicked a penalty goal.

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THE HANCOCK STORY

Cardiff's First Great Man

Deputy Frank's 2 tries set up the 4-threequarter system

Frank Hancock, a Somerset man born and bred, was responsible for a revolutionary change in Welsh threequarter play when he moved to Cardiff for the 1883-84 season to take up employment with the brewery company of William Hancock. The Wiveliscombe club, which Frank Hancock had captained, set a high standard of efficiency and Frank was an accomplished performer.

Cardiff used the three threequarter line-up until by chance they tried the four-man method. This arose after Hancock came into the first team when they were short of a threequarter for the match at Cheltenham College in February 1884. Frank scored both Cardiff's tries and the club felt they could not leave him out of the next game. But W. B. Norton, Tom Williams and A. J. Stuart, the regular trio, were all available to play against Gloucester.

The only way out of the dilemma was to play four threequarters. Although the game was drawn, without a score, the formation was considered so successful that it was continued for the remainder of the season, and Cardiff developed the system in the following years until it was adopted by Wales in 1886 and eventually by all other countries.

From a feeling of consideration to their players, Cardiff launched the modern threequarter style - and an Englishman played the critical part with those two smart tries on his debut.

A brilliant "corkscrew runner" with good skills, he became one of Cardiff's most successful captains. He captained them during 1885/86 when they only lost one game - against Moseley. At that time international qualifications were rather "blurred" and Englishman Frank played four times for Wales, v Ireland 1884, v England and Scotland 1885, and Scotland 1886.

Ronnie W. Boon

Ronnie, former Cardiff and Wales wing threequarter who became his country's hero by defeating England at Twickenham is about to leave his beloved Wales to spend the rest of his days with his daughter in New Zealand, at the ripe "young" age of 85!

Ronnie became a legend when his try and drop goal defeated "the old enemy" by 7 points to 3 in 1933 to record the first win for Wales, after a 23 year wait, at H.Q. in front of 64,000 including the Prince Of Wales.

Bon Voyage from everyone in Welsh rugby.

I'll settle for that score in 2 weeks time!

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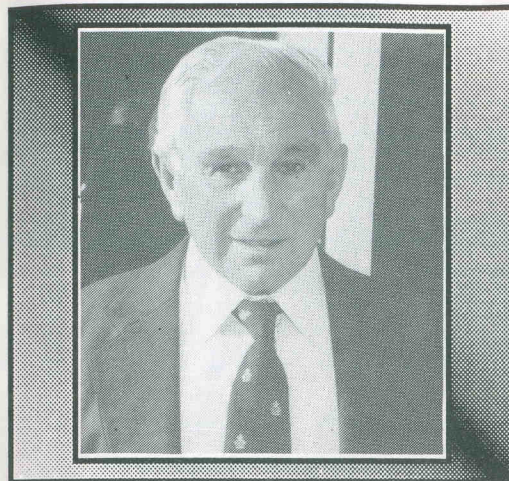
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Super Scarlets Supporter



Name: CLIFF MORGAN

Home Town: Llanelli

Age: 74

Q. Number of years supporting the Scarlets?

A. 47

Q. Favourite Player in Current Squad?

A. Rupert Moon

Q. Favourite Player from yesterday?

A. Phil Bennett

Q. Best Scarlets match seen?

A. Llanelli v Pontypridd at Stradey, Wednesday, 28th April, 1993, when Scarlets won the Heineken League Championship.

Q. Best Try scored by a Scarlet (not necessarily for Llanelli)?

A. Wayne Proctor. WRU Cup Semi final at Cardiff against Swansea on 24/4/93. Scarlets winning 29-18.

Q. Favourite Rugby Journalist/Pundit?

A. J.B.G. Thomas formerly of the Western Mail

Q. Favourite Ground Visited?

A. Welford Road, Leicester.

Q. Your All Time Best Scarlets Team and Captain?

A. 15. Terry Davies, 14. Robert Morgan, 13. Lewis Jones, 12. Cyril Davies, 11. Ieuan Evans, 10. Phil Bennett, 9. Rupert Moon (c), 1. Barry Llewelyn, 2. Norman Gale, 3. Henry Morgan, 4. Delme Thomas, 5. R.H. Williams, 6. Peter Evans, 8. Derek Quinell, 7. Emyr Lewis

Q. Favourite Sportserson?

A. Sally Gunnell

Q. Is there anything you would like to see changed at the Club?

A. I would like to see home games being advertised more before the Saturday in local papers etc.

Q. Any other comment?

A. No, only I would like to thank Llanelli R.F.C. and Players past and present for the much pleasure they have given me during the last 47 years in following them Home and Away.



Name: **GARAN EVANS**

QUIZ FILE

Who was your boyhood rugby hero?
JONATHAN DAVIES

What have been your most thrilling moments in rugby?
PLAYING FOR YSGOL GYFUN Y STRADE IN THE WELSH SCHOOLS CUP FINAL AT CARDIFF ARMS PARK. MY FIRST GAME FOR LLANELLI.

What have been your biggest disappointments in rugby?
LOSING IN THE ABOVE FINAL.

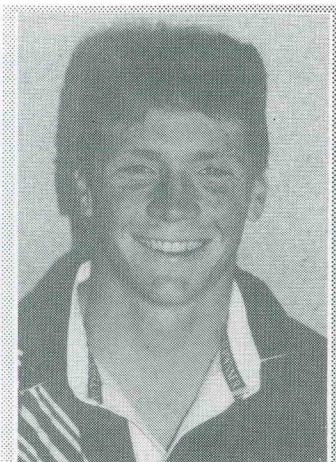
Which present day rugby player do you admire most?
IEUAN EVANS.

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
MY FATHER

Who is the toughest opponent you have faced?
THE HIGH BALL WITH A STRONG WIND.

Who is the funniest players you have known?
KEVIN "COCHYN" BOYD TRIMSARAN R.F.C.

Which team did you support as a boy?
LLANELLI R.F.C.



PERSONAL POINTS

Full Name: Garan Rhys Evans

Date of Birth: 16.2.73.

Birthplace: Carmarthen

Height: 5ft 11 ins.

Weight: 11st. 7 lbs.

Family: Single

Scarlets Debut: v Bath (h) 15/10/93

No. of games: 23

No. of tries: 9 including a hat trick v Abertillery.

FAVOURITES

T. V. Programme: Tocyn Tymor

Film: Star Wars Trilogy

Pop Artist: Chris Rea

Drink: Red Wine

B. L. Butler

RICOH

LLANELLI R.F.C. STATISTICAL PRINT-OUT

1994	Opponents	F/A	15	14	13	12	11	10
August								
Sat 27	Swansea	H	35-23	I.W. Jones	I. Evans	N. Davies	N. Boobyer	W. Proctor C. Stephens
September								
Thu 1	Moseley	H	27-19	D. Hughes	S. Prenderville	S. Davies	M. Wintle	G. Evans J. Strange
Sat 3	Abertillery	A	25-19	I.W. Jones	I. Evans	N. Boobyer	N. Davies	W. Proctor C. Stephens
Wed 7	Treorchy	A	0-16	I.W. Jones	I. Evans	N. Boobyer	N. Davies	W. Proctor C. Stephens
Sat 10	Cambridge Uni	A	40-19	N. Boobyer	S. Prenderville	D. Hughes	M. Wintle	G. Evans C. Stephens
Wed 14	Welsh Police	H	11-13	J. Hopkins	S. Prenderville	S. Davies	D. Hughes	G. Evans C. Stephens
Sat 17	Narberth	A	30-20	I.W. Jones/S. Prenderville	D. Hughes	S. Davies	M. Wintle	G. Evans J. Strange
Thur 22	Abercrave	A	62-0	D. Hughes	G. Evans	A. Slimm/S. Wall	S. Prenderville	J. Hall J. Strange
Sat 24	Pontypool	H	20-32	I.W. Jones	I. Evans	S. Davies	N. Boobyer	W. Proctor/J. Strange C. Stephens
October								
Sat 1	Cardiff	A	8-28	I.W. Jones	I. Evans/J. Strange	N. Boobyer	N. Davies	W. Proctor C. Stephens
Wed 5	Maesteg	A	44-10	I.W. Jones	D. Hughes	M. Wintle	S. Davies	G. Evans J. Strange
Sat 8	Aberavon	A	32-33	I.W. Jones	D. Hughes	M. Wintle	S. Davies	S. Prenderville J. Strange
Tue 11	Swansea	H	20-19	J. Strange	D. Hughes	S. Davies/T. Davies	M. Wintle	S. Prenderville C. Stephens
Sat 15	Dunvant	H	22-19	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	M. Wintle	N. Boobyer	D. Hughes C. Stephens
Sat 22	Newbridge	A	29-3	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	N. Boobyer	N. Davies	M. Wintle C. Stephens
Sat 29	SOUTH AFRICA	H	12-30	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor/H. Harries	N. Boobyer	N. Davies	M. Wintle C. Stephens/J. Strange
November								
Tue 1	Cardiff	A	22-7	S. Wall	G. Evans	S. Prenderville	J. Hall	A. Thomas R. Jones
Sat 5	Newport	H	15-12	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	S. Davies	N. Davies/N. Boobyer	M. Wintle J. Strange
Sat 12	Bridgend	A	3-16	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	S. Davies	M. Wintle	N. Boobyer/C. Stephens J. Strange
Tue 15	E. Ontario	H	38-10	I.W. Jones	S. Prenderville	S. Davies	J. Strange	G. Evans C. Stephens
Sat 19	Bedford	H	33-7	I.W. Jones	S. Prenderville	S. Davies	J. Strange	G. Evans C. Stephens
Tue 22	South African Police	H	23-22	I.W. Jones	S. Prenderville	S. Davies	P. Jones	G. Evans C. Stephens
December								
Sat 3	Neath	A	10-20	J. Strange	I.W. Jones	S. Davies	N. Boobyer	G. Evans C. Stephens
Sat 10	Swansea	A	16-23	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	M. Wintle	N. Boobyer	G. Evans J. Strange
Sat 17	Caerphilly (Cup)	H	51-0	I.W. Jones/C. Stephens	W. Proctor	N. Boobyer	M. Wintle	G. Evans J. Strange
Sat 24	Abertillery	H	54-13	J. Strange	W. Proctor	N. Boobyer	M. Wintle	G. Evans C. Stephens
Mon 26	London Welsh	H	19-6	J. Strange	S. Prenderville	S. Davies/N. Boobyer	M. Wintle	G. Evans C. Stephens
Sat 31	Treorchy	H	16-23	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	N. Boobyer	M. Wintle	G. Evans J. Strange
1995 January								
Sat 7	Pontypool	A	13-22	I.W. Jones	W. Proctor	N. Boobyer	M. Wintle	G. Evans J. Strange
Thurs 12	Pontypridd	H	3-11	I.W. Jones	N. Boobyer	M. Wintle	S. Davies	G. Evans C. Stephens
Sat 14	Swansea	A	0-22	S. Morgan	S. Prenderville	S. Davies	N. Boobyer	G. Evans C. Payne
Sat 28	Glynneath (Cup)	A	27-0	I.W. Jones	I. Evans	N. Boobyer	N. Davies	G. Evans C. Stephens
February								
Sat 4	Cardiff	H						
Wed 8	Dunvant	A						
Sat 11	London Scottish	H						
Fri 17	Wasps	H						
Wed 22	Bristol	A						
Sat 25	Newbridge	H						
March								
Fri 3	Boroughmuir	A						
Sat 11	Newport	A						
Fri 17	St. Marys Coll.	H						
Sat 25	WRU Cup							
April								
Sat 1	Bridgend	H						
Sat 8	WRU Cup Q/F							
Sat 15	Pontypridd	A						
Sat 22	Tenby/Cup S/F	H						
Sat 29	Neath	H						
May								
Sat 6	CUP FINAL							



Ian Jones gets the ball away before being tackled by Cardiff's Mike Hall in the Scarlets' 15-9 win at Cardiff in October, 1993.

9	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	7
R. Moon	R. Evans	A. Lamerton	H. Williams-Jones	P. Davies	L. Williams	I. Hembrow	S. Quinell	A. Varney
H. Harries	S. Johnson/R. Jones	P. Young	S. John	C. Quinell	Steve Johnson	Ryan Evans	A. McPherson	M. Codd
R. Moon/H. Harries	R. Evans	A. Lamerton	H. Williams-Jones	A. Copsey	L. Williams	I. Hembrow	S. Quinell/A. McPherson	A. Varney
H. Harries	R. Evans	A. Lamerton	H. Williams-Jones	P. Davies	A. Copsey	A. McPherson	I. Hembrow	M. Codd
H. Harries	S. Johnson	P. Young	S. John	C. Quinell	Steve Johnson	A. McPherson	I. Hembrow	M. Codd
H. Harries	R. Price	P. Young	S. Johnson	L. Williams	Steve Johnson	A. McPherson	I. Hembrow	M. Codd
S. Morgan	R. Jones	P. Young/E. Evans	S. Johnson	L. Williams	Steve Johnson	A. McPherson	C. Quinell	M. Codd
S. Morgan/M. Owen	R. Jones	E. Evans	S. Johnson	P. May	Steve Johnson	Ryan Evans	J. Williams	M. Codd
R. Moon	R. Evans	P. Young	H. Williams-Jones	P. Davies	L. Williams/P. Jones	A. McPherson	I. Hembrow	A. Varney
R. Moon	R. Evans	R. McBryde	H. Williams-Jones	P. Davies	L. Williams	P. Jones	A. McPherson	A. Varney
H. Harries	R. Jones	P. Young	S. Johnson	L. Williams	P. Jones	Ryan Evans	I. Hembrow	M. Codd
S. Morgan	R. Jones	P. Young	S. Johnson	L. Williams	Steve Johnson	C. Quinell	A. McPherson/P. Jones	A. Varney/M. Codd
S. Morgan	R. Jones	P. Young	S. Johnson/S. John	P. May	C. Quinell	P. Jones	J. Williams	Simon Davies
H. Harries	H. Williams-Jones/R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	L. Williams	P. Jones	A. McPherson	J. Williams	M. Codd
R. Moon/H. Harries	R. Evans/P. Young	R. McBryde	S. John/H. Williams-Jones	P. Davies	A. Copsey	P. Jones	J. Williams	M. Perego
R. Moon	R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	P. Davies	A. Copsey	P. Jones	J. Williams	M. Perego
S. Morgan	R. Jones	A. Lamerton	S. Johnson	C. Quinell	K. Williams	M. Codd	A. McPherson	M. Chilcott
R. Moon	H. Williams-Jones/R. Jones	R. McBryde/P. Young	S. John	L. Williams	A. Copsey/C. Quinell	P. Jones	I. Hembrow	M. Codd
R. Moon/H. Harries	R. Evans	P. Young	S. John	P. Davies	L. Williams/P. Jones	I. Hembrow	J. Williams	A. Lamerton
H. Harries	R. Jones/S. Johnson	P. Young	S. John	P. Jones/L. Williams	A. Copsey	C. Quinell	I. Hembrow	A. McPherson/M. Codd
H. Harries	S. Johnson	A. Lamerton	H. Williams-Jones	L. Williams	C. Quinell	I. Hembrow	J. Williams	A. McPherson
H. Harries	R. Jones	P. Young	H. Williams-Jones/S. Johnson	L. Williams	A. Copsey/A. Lamerton	I. Hembrow	J. Williams	A. McPherson
R. Moon	R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	L. Williams	A. Copsey	I. Hembrow	J. Williams	A. McPherson
H. Harries	R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	L. Williams	A. Copsey	C. Quinell	P. Davies	A. Lamerton
H. Harries	R. Jones	A. Lamerton	H. Williams-Jones	L. Williams	A. Copsey	I. Hembrow	J. Williams	A. Lamerton
H. Harries	R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	P. Davies	L. Williams	A. McPherson	J. Williams	M. Codd/Gwyn Jones
S. Morgan	R. Jones	P. Young	S. John	P. Davies	L. Williams	A. McPherson	J. Williams	M. Codd
R. Moon	R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	L. Williams	A. Copsey	I. Hembrow	P. Davies	A. Lamerton
H. Harries	R. Evans	R. McBryde	S. John	L. Williams	A. Copsey	C. Quinell	P. Davies	A. Lamerton
H. Harries	R. Jones	P. Young	H. Williams-Jones	C. Quinell	G. Manson-Bishop	A. McPherson	J. Williams	M. Codd/Gwyn Jones
R. Moon	H. Williams-Jones	R. McBryde	S. John	L. Williams	A. Copsey	C. Quinell	P. Davies	A. McPherson



Gareth Edwards, whose service helped Barry John to flourish in New Zealand with the 1971 Lions, and for Wales.



WALES UNDER

**ROBERT NORSTER, ALAN DAVIES &
GARETH JENKINS (FROM 1993)**



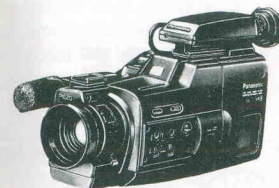
As we are now in the international season, listed below are details of Welsh results under Robert Norster, Alan Davies and Gareth Jenkins

Played 32 - Won 18, Lost 14 Drawn 0

1	France (non-champ)	at Cardiff	1991	Lost	9 - 22
2	Western Samoa (World Cup)	at Cardiff	1991	Lost	13 - 16
3	Argentina (World Cup)	at Cardiff	1991	Won	16 - 7
4	Australia (World Cup)	at Cardiff	1991	Lost	3 - 38
5	Ireland	at Dublin	1992	Won	16 - 15
6	France	at Cardiff	1992	Lost	9 - 12
7	England	at Twickenham	1992	Lost	0 - 24
8	Scotland	at Cardiff	1992	Won	15 - 12
9	Australia	at Cardiff	1992	Lost	6 - 23
10	England	at Cardiff	1993	Won	10 - 9
11	Scotland	at Murrayfield	1993	Lost	0 - 20
12	Ireland	at Cardiff	1993	Lost	14 - 19
13	France	at Paris	1993	Lost	10 - 26
14	Zimbabwe	at Bulawayo	1993	Won	35 - 14
15	Zimbabwe	at Harare	1993	Won	42 - 13
16	Namibia	at Windhoek	1993	Won	38 - 23
17	Japan	at Cardiff	1993	Won	55 - 5
18	Canada	at Cardiff	1993	Lost	24 - 26
19	Scotland	at Cardiff	1994	Won	29 - 6
20	Ireland	at Dublin	1994	Won	17 - 15
21	France	at Cardiff	1994	Won	24 - 15
22	England	at Twickenham	1994	Lost	8 - 15
23	Portugal (World Cup Qualifier)	at Lisbon	1994	Won	102 - 11
24	Spain (World Cup Qualifier)	at Madrid	1994	Won	54 - 0
25	Canada	at Toronto	1994	Won	33 - 15
26	Fiji	at Suva	1994	Won	23 - 8
27	Tonga	at Nukualofa	1994	Won	18 - 9
28	Western Samoa	at Apia	1994	Lost	9 - 34
29	Romania (World Cup Group)	at Bucharest	1994	Won	16 - 9
30	Italy (World Cup Group)	at Cardiff	1994	Won	29 - 19
31	South Africa	at Cardiff	1994	Lost	12 - 20
32	France	at Paris	1995	Lost	9 - 21

COACH	Matches	W	D	L	
David Nash	1967-68	5	1	1	3
Clive Rowlands	1968-74	29	18	4	7
John Dawes	1974-79	24	18	0	6
John Lloyd	1980-82	14	5	0	9
John Bevan	1982-85	15	7	1	7
Tony Gray	1985-88	18	9	0	9
John Ryan	1988-90	9	2	0	7
Ron Waldron	1990-91	10	2	1	7
Alan Davies	1991-	32	18	0	14

The match against Italy saw Alan Davies beat the record number of matches by a Wales coach - 29 set by Clive Rowlands and the victory for Wales saw Davies equal the number of victories (18) by Rowlands and John Dawes). Hopefully Alan will hold the outright number of victories at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 18th February!



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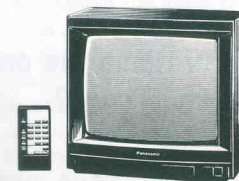
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1. Which former Welsh rugby international "fought" Rocky Marciano?

2. Name the only Welsh ground where Wales have remained undefeated?

Send your entries on a POSTCARD please to **CARDIFF PROGRAMME, LLANELLI R.F.C., STRADEY PARK, LLANELLI, SA15 4BT** to arrive by **11th FEBRUARY, 1995**. Good Luck.

Results of earlier competitions:

LONDON WELSH caption "Desperate times - London Welsh give trial to old Chippendale" - winner **R. I. HUGHES, CARDIFF**.

TREORCHY answers 1. Fiji, 2. Auckland, 3. Ireland, 4. Scotland - winner **D. JAMES, LLANELLI**.

PONTYPRIDD - answer Paul Jones winner **FFION M. JONES, AMMANFORD**



CROWN BUCKLEY

CENTURIES OF BREWING TRADITION

'Labour cash linked with Red Turks' screamed the headline in the Daily Express. '£600,000 fraud claims' it elaborated. My heart sank. Had local MP Denzil Davies been caught with his fingers in the till helping out the Scarlets?

But no, it was all to do with police probing claims that Islington council gave cash to Turkish Communists. Phew! So that's alright then.

Talking of headlines: "STATE OF THE UNION" enticed a very impressive Monday morning headline in the *Western Mail*. Throughout the week there appeared a series of interviews with leading rugby figures regarding the state of the Welsh game.

First there was Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union and of the International Board. Next day it was Wales national coach Alan Davies's turn. Then Gareth Davies, chief executive of our guests today, Cardiff R.F.C. Wales captain Gareth Llewellyn followed, with Rugby League chief executive Maurice Lindsay taking up the rear.

Hamish Stuart drew optimistic conclusions from somewhat predictable interviews. It was good to hear Gareth Llewellyn develop the theme of summer rugby. But the most startling comment was that of Gareth Davies when he admitted that, if he didn't have to he wouldn't watch Welsh rugby.

I know the feeling. Over recent years I've missed few of Llanelli's games, but this season there have been several opt-outs, mostly down to the standard of play on offer, sadly.

But back to the "STATE OF THE UNION" in the *Western Mail*. Notice something missing from the above list of rugby luminaries? A certain point of view, perhaps? Put it another way: in the increasingly high-profile world of rugby, what is far and away the most important part of the equation.

No, not the players. They will play anyway. Anywhere. Anytime. There are thousands up and down the Principality playing in front of your man and his dog. Okay, plus a few friends and family. But I did specify high-profile rugby...? Why, the supporter of course. Without the paying punter you have nothing. T.V. would certainly not dish out the mega bucks if grounds were empty and void of atmosphere.

The dramatic fall-off in attendances this season is the most obvious by-product of the standard of rugby on show, along with the promotion of the game. That the recent Wales v South Africa game should have had an abundance of tickets available on the street should be a major cause for alarm.

So for what it's worth here is a typical supporter's view of things. Let's confront the league system first, that clubs are now only interested in 2 points; and that we are becoming incestuous, everyone knowing each other's game inside out.

If we go back a couple of years, to this club's glory season, good rugby wasn't the exclusive province of Stradey Park. As I've mentioned before in this column, our guests today played some wonderful rugby throughout that season.

Everytime the ball floated its way towards Nigel Walker we all held our breath. He scored some exciting tries.

Swansea too scored tries galore, many of them good enough to grace any rugby field in the world. In our cup semi-final, where the Scarlets played some glorious rugby, the Jacks scored two superb late tries.

In the final itself Neath took Llanelli on at their own brand of rugby - and nearly stole it.

Then last season the Scarlets, in an effort to stay ahead of the pack, changed to a more confrontational style of play. Crazy the "new" Llanelli style quickly became the norm throughout the league. Why did this happen? Do the Scarlets hold such sway over the whole of Welsh rugby? Scarcely believe. Perhaps there's some new virus at work here.

And what of this incestuous business. I do tend to think this, so I am all for an Anglo or European league - but look at Rugby League. Sixteen teams play each other twice in the league, two cup competitions - and this week the Welsh took on the English. Now that *is* incestuous - but league gets more attractive by the day. (League rugby improved dramatically when increased space was allowed at the play of the ball: union lawmakers please note!).

The way forward? My own theory, which I have also mentioned here before, is this: Wales has a limited player base, and consequently the number of top quality players are similarly few on the ground. Our top players have recently become dangerously spread throughout not just the First Division, but all the top divisions. Disaster writ large!

Gareth Davies in his interview emphasised the transfer of good standard players to a lower division weakens the top level. Absolutely. Top players must also pit their skills against other top players, regularly. As in rugby league, top players should ideally be attracted to no more than say half-a-dozen clubs.

It's the good old pyramid system at its most productive.

Then there's all this playing silly buggers over Second XVs. The W.R.U. should set up and fund a proper Under-21 club scene, perhaps expanding into a cup tournament, the final to be played as a curtain-raiser to the S.W.A.L.E.C. Cup Final.

Clubs should also have an official second side to bridge the Under-21s and their seniors. The Seconds should be involved in a Floodlight Alliance-type tournament where only tries and conversions count (we must let kickers develop and display their skills) all culminating in a spectacular mid-week final at the National Ground sometime in the spring. On a Bank Holiday, perhaps.

No apologies for repeating myself, but we *must* develop some sort of feeder system at top club level. Unfortunately, the contributors to the *STATE OF THE UNION* didn't quite see it through the eyes of your common or garden supporter.

A pity that.

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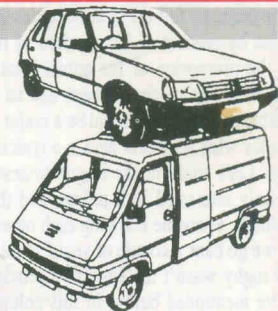
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