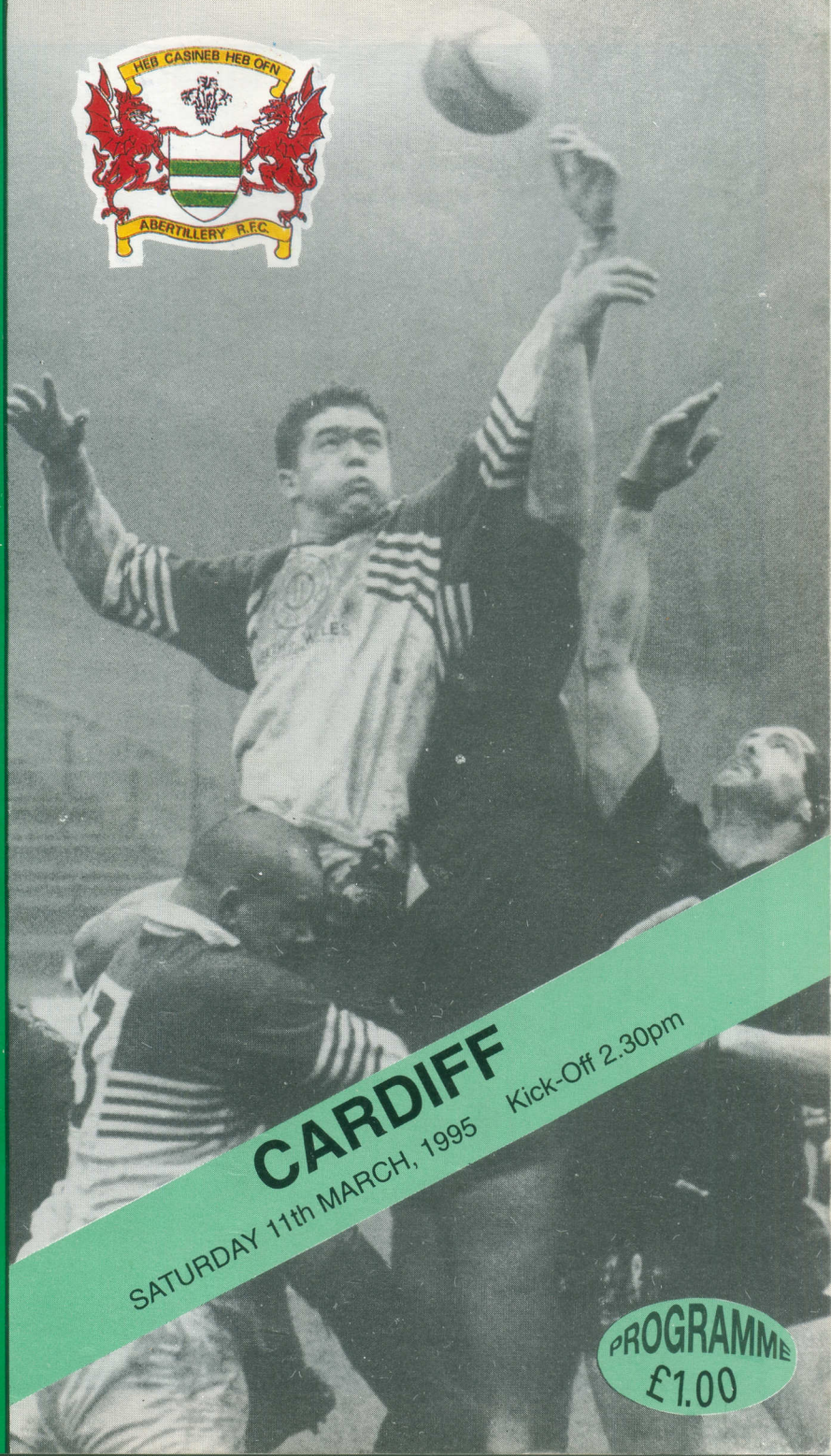


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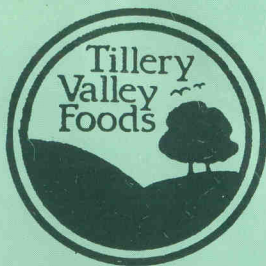
CARDIFF

SATURDAY 11th MARCH, 1995

Kick-Off 2.30pm



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Heineken National League Division One

Season 1994 - 95

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Club Captain:	Mark Rossiter

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**FOR TEAM NEWS AND INFORMATION ON
THE GREEN and WHITES
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ABERTILLERY v CARDIFF

This afternoon it is our pleasure to welcome Heineken League Division one leaders Cardiff to the Park. They are without a doubt an outstanding side who follow the tradition of teams who have represented the capital city over numerous seasons. Within their ranks are a galaxy of stars including Steve Ford, Mike Hall, Simon Hill, Adrian Davies, Andy Moore, Mike Griffiths, John Humphries, Stuart Roy, Derwyn Jones, Hemi Taylor and Emyr Lewis.

Their recent demolition of our near friends and rivals Pontypool was a display of total commitment to the fifteen man game. Forwards and backs alike, running and supporting the ball carrier truly an amazing display of skill the like of which had not been seen at Pontypool Park for many years.

The Heineken League is drawing to a close with a tremendous interest in all the remaining fixtures Cardiff rivals Pontypridd remain snapping at their heels and the feat endured by the 'Pooler' against Cardiff was a similar one that we had to endure at the hands of Neil Jenkins and co. at Sardis Road.

The 'Green & Whites' fall on anxious time between now and the end of the season with a home game against Duvant and away fixtures at Neath and Swansea to come. Anxiously looking over our shoulder at the results from Pontypool, Newport and Duvant at least our boys know what they've got to do to stay up. Two victories would be enough. Certainly there is tremendous character in the team and it won't be for the want of trying in all remaining games of this season. 'Battle Hardened' by a season of ups and down in the most competitive of leagues the 'Green and Whites' realise that unless you secure and retain the ball and then take on the opposition you find yourself certainly back peddling. we will not be found wanting in the remaining fixtures and with enough local support I'm very sure that Mark Rossiter and his boys will win through

Year Founded	1876
Record Victory (1st XV)	107-3 v Plymouth, away, Jan. 9, 1993
Heaviest Defeat (1st XV)	0-52 v Pontypool away Apr. 28, 1981
Most Capped Player (Full Caps)	Gareth Edwards, 53 Wales, 1967-78
Most 1st XV Appearances: Career	Alan Phillips, 471, (1975-92)
Most 1st XV Points in a season (Team)	1,214 (1983-84)
Most 1st XV Tries in a Season (Team)	194 (1983-84)
Colours	Cambridge Blue and Black

HIGHEST 1st XV POINT SCORER

Season	Gareth Davies, 383 (1983-84)
Career	Gareth Davies, 3134, (1977-86)
Match	Ceri Thomas, 37, v Plymouth, Jan 9 1993

HIGHEST 1st XV TRIES SCORER

Season	Bleddyn Williams 41, (1947-48)
Career	Bleddyn Williams 185, (1945-55)
Match	Percy Heard, 7, v Blaenavon, 1878-79
	Post-War Derrick Price, 6, v Gowerton away Dec. 18, 1982

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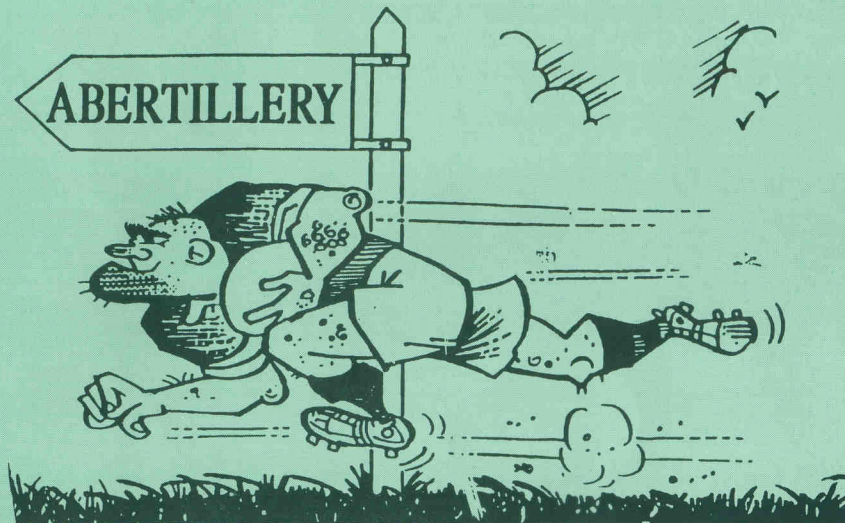
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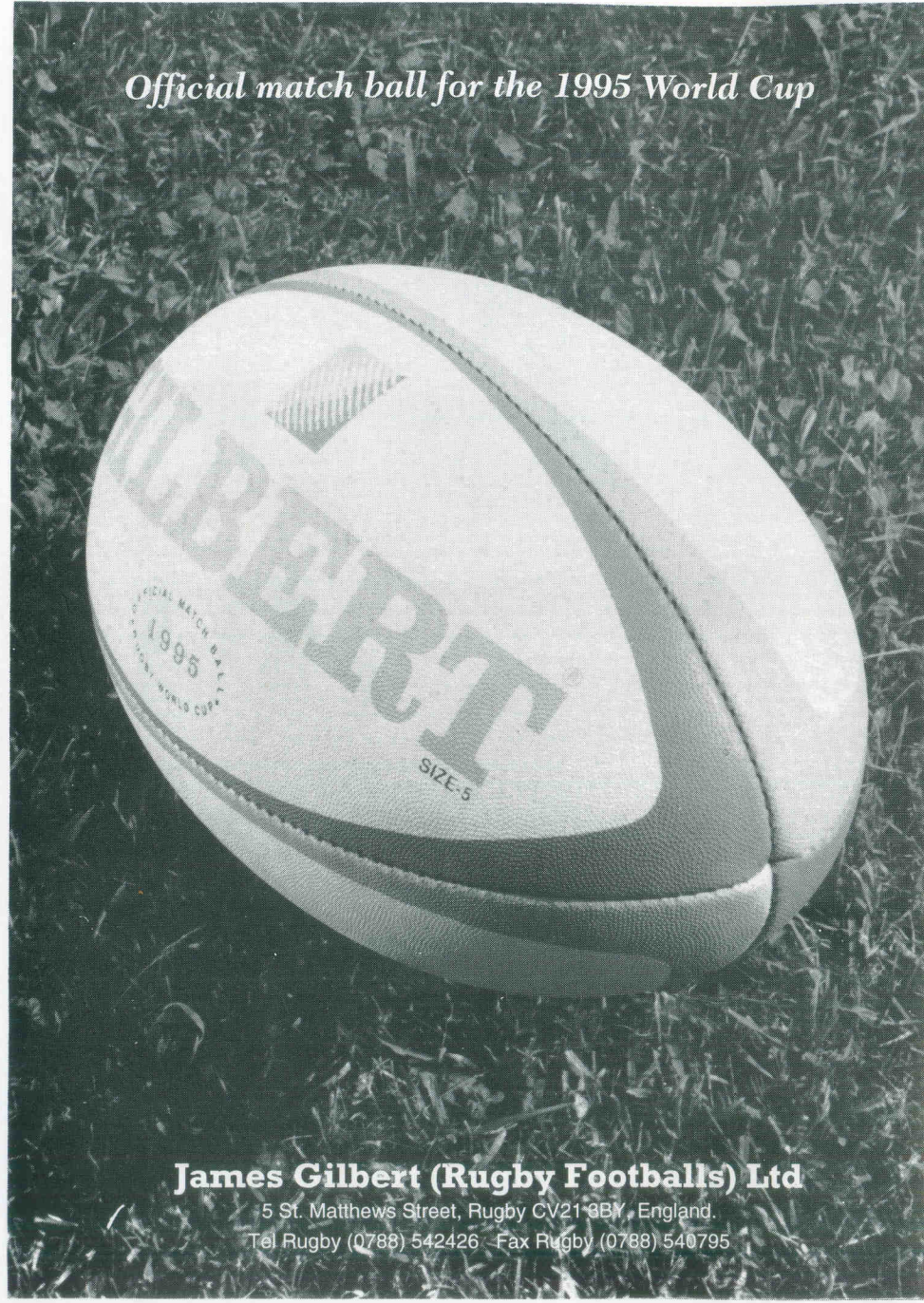
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Front row: Byron Hayward, Darren John, Andrew Dobbs, Mark Rossiter (capt.), Mark Williams, Matt McCluney, Dean Jones, Anthony Hillman.

Absent: Bruce Corlett, John Evans, David Jones, Colin Milkins, Adam Richards, Paul MacDonald.

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COMPOST CORNER

EURO-SCEPTIC

As political wrangling continues on the theme of Europe, it is interesting to draw parallels to the debate going on in Welsh rugby. Throughout the season, certain of the top clubs, together with the support of some journalists, have made clear their desire to participate in European Super League. The ostensible reason for this, they tell us, is that the players who represent their country from those clubs will become better prepared for the rigours of International rugby. On the evidence of last week's debacle at Edinburgh, this myth they have been peddling has been well and truly exploded. Even the most ardent Scottish rugby fan will tell you (and I know because I lived there for four years) that the standard of the Scottish Leagues is not up to that of the Heineken League, Dougie Morgan, the Scottish coach, said as much prior to the game. Yet the Scottish team that completely steamrolled Wales, particularly up front, contained 11 players from the McEwans League whilst the other four play in England. Of those, one plays in the Second Division (West Hartlepool), whilst the other two play for Bath. Perhaps play is the wrong word, however, for Eric Peters, Together with Rob Wainwright, he was the outstanding forward on display last weekend yet he cant even force his way into the Bath 1st XV and has to be content with the odd run-out, mostly in non-league encounters. No doubt, these second team fixtures really battle-harden the player for the international arena in the long-gone halcyon days of Welsh Rugby in the Seventies, any of the stars played irregularly for their clubs throughout the season and yet were still able to produce truly world-class performances in the red shirt. As John Perkins said earlier this season, had Welsh rugby continued to flourish throughout the eighties, then leagues would not have been introduced here. The present failures of Welsh rugby are not attributable to league rugby and its perceived low standards. We were on the downward slope well before their introduction. Instead our problems are manifold and the self-interested

smokescreen of a European League put up by some clubs, in order to generate more money for themselves, should not deflect us from identifying those real problems and putting them right.

AND NOW THE END IS NEAR ..

Four games to go including today's and the fight for first division survival is still on. Two wins should be enough to see us survive whilst one would give us hope. Those final three games are away at Neath and Swansea, with a home fixture against Duvant sandwiched in-between. We have beaten both the Welsh All-Blacks and the Whites already this season and should have defeated Duvant at the Broadacre. If we play to our potential, then we can pick the necessary points. One all-important factor however is the level of support for the team in these final crucial games. A large vocal following can make all the difference so get behind the lads for the last lap!

Wales v Ireland Club Member Draw

Stand Tickets:-

103, 113, 132, 143, 149, 161, 181,
196, 224, 225, 251, 262, 287, 315,
316, 323, 340, 341, 342, 356, 357,
522, 524, 542, 564, 567, 597, 596.

Field Tickets:-

107, 108, 127, 136, 173, 195, 219,
260, 308, 331, 338, 345, 504, 508,
509, 516, 518, 546, 594.

Collect Mon 13th 8-9pm

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There are five Leisure Centres providing many facilities:

Abertillery Leisure Centre	01495 212206
Abertillery Community Education Centre	01495 217111
Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre	01495 303766
Nantyglo Leisure Centre	01495 310576
Tredeggar Leisure Centre	01495 723554

COMMUNITY CENTRES

If you wish to hire a facility for a wedding reception, birthday party, anniversary party, etc, the Borough has excellent facilities at Brynmawr Community Centre and Beaufort Ballroom. We can also provide all your catering arrangements.

Contact Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale 01495 350555, ext. 2102

EVENTS

The borough organises or supports over 40 events, both sporting or artistic, throughout the year.

It also provides the Christmas Lighting and will be assisting in the official "switch on" ceremonies.

MARKETS

The Borough organises the Markets at Ebbw Vale, Abertillery, Brynmawr and Blaina.

**FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
THE LEISURE DEPARTMENT (01495) 350555**

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Centre—Canolwr
Centre—Canolwr
Left Wing—Asgell Chwith
Outside Half—Maswr
Inside Half—Mewnwr

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2 ALFIE HARBINSON
3 WAYNE FORD
4 MIKE WHITSON
5 ROB McCORDUK
6 GERAINT GLADWIN
7 RICHARD PASK
8 JOHN WILLIAMS

Prop
Hooker—Bachwr
Prop
Second Row—Clo
Second Row—Clo
Wing Forward—Blaenasgell
Wing Forward—Blaenasgell
No. 8—Rhif 8

1 ANDREW LEWIS
2 HUW BEVAN
3 PHIL SEDGEMORE
4 JOHN WAKEFORD
5 DERWYN JONES
6 HEMI TAYLOR
7 MARK BENNETT
8 EMYR LEWIS

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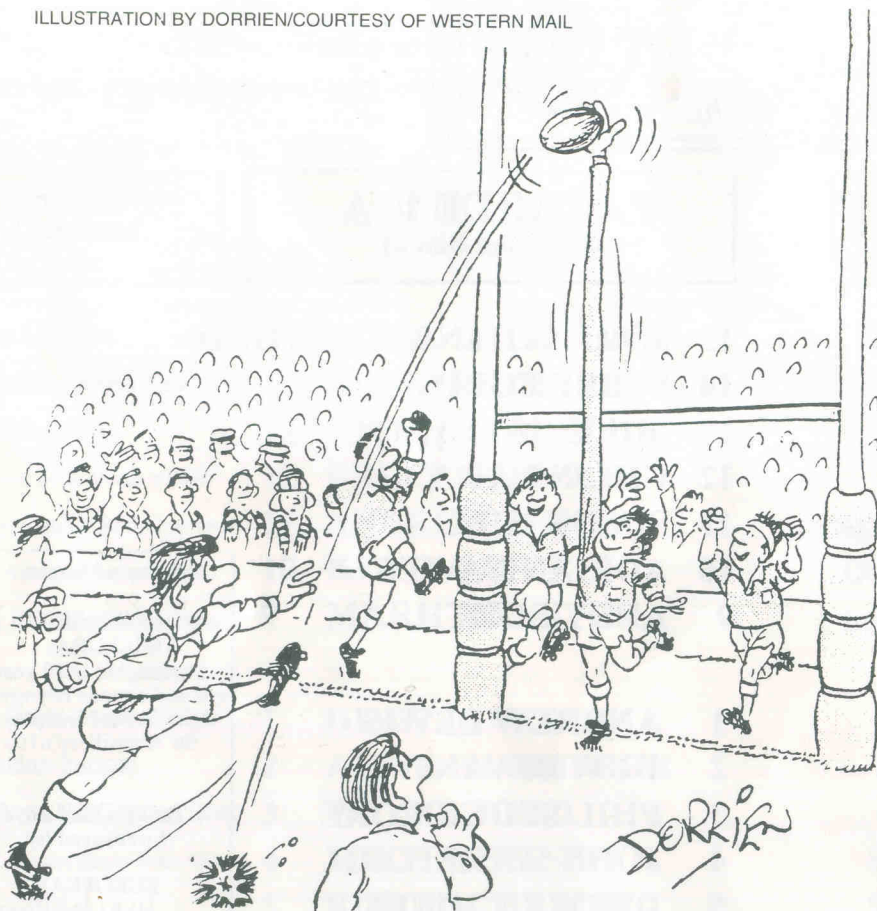
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Welsh Rugby in a state of terminal decline?

Never! I can hear the stalwards of the old great club say..... Overheard a conversation on the return trip to Scotland.

Robert "You develop the players up there in the Valleys and send them down to us for the good of the game in Wales."

Peter "For the good of who?"

Robert "For the good of the game in Wales. I mean if these boys want caps they've got to play for Llanelli, Swansea or Cardiff."

Peter "Who says so?"

Robert "The media, the BBC, The Western Mail, Rugby Special"

Peter "Is that why Llanelli, Cardiff, Swansea and Neath are always on the Box?"

Robert "Well its obvious its all a question of reciprocity"

Peter "Reci! What?"

Robert "You know, its all part of the "Tafia". Its a word my college lecturer used to use when he got overlooked for promotion and one of the principals girl friends got promoted. You know she was doing something for him and he did something for her"

Peter "So what are you saying like you've got to be doing something for the WRU or the Tafia the BBC or the selectors or what?"

Robert "You mean us get capped?"

Peter "You don't have to get capped now just being in the squads good enough. Free Kit, top rate Hotels Warm weather training, all those perks"

Robert "What do you mean Perks?"

Peter "Well some even get cars and its supposed to be an amateur game. How can it be? Some of them dont even work. You know given jobs so that they've got more time to train, well how much training can they do in a day anyway?"

Robert "Well obviously not as much as they should be doing"

Peter "Obviously. I was talking to this Scots bloke at the game and he told me it was only their second team anyway"

Robert "Dont be daft"

Peter "No he told me that at least two of them play for Bath Seconds. I can remember Crumlin smashing Bath seconds season after season. Perhaps that's the level we've got to"

Robert "What do you mean?"

Peter "Well perhaps Wales ought to seek fixtures with Crumlin?"

Robert "Dont be daft what would the public think if Crumlin beat them"

Peter "What do you mean 'if' they beat them"

Robert "Too many players from too few clubs. All good at going the same way; forward. week in and week out little opposition. No 'dog' to dig deep. No Clive Burgess or Geoff Wheel. I saw a Welsh player give a English opponent a hand up; where's it all gone all that Hwy!?"

Peter "Dont ask me ask Alan Davies I expect he'll say look at the statistics"

Robert "Crystal Ball more like it. I blame poor coaching, poor selection and wrong tactics. How can they pick two unfit back row forwards against England?"

Peter "Dont ask me, perhaps the Llanelli third teams flankers had measles or something well how do you expect to win when you've lost two good props this season?"
Easy pick two good replacements. They have'nt by right got to come from Llanelli, Cardiff or Swansea. You know the sought of prop who knows where to put his feet in the scrum."

Robert "Well perhaps they'll spread a couple of players from up the Valley."

Peter "Yes someone with a bit of dog in them."

Robert "He would be for the good of the game in Wales"

Peter "Yes why dont they send someone up instead of us sending them down. They could soon see how good they really are week in and week out. Soon develop a bit a Gwent Dog."

Robert "No couldn't do that, get to develop them up there and send them down for the good of the game in Wales"

Peter "For the good of who?"

Robert "You know there will soon be a Euro League and it will be for the good of the game in Wales....."

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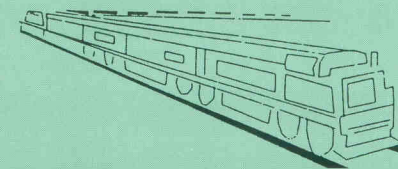
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ABERTILLERY R.F.C. FIRST XV FIXTURES — 1994-95

Aug 7 Newbridge H (L)	Nov 22 Tredegar (Tue) H	Feb 8 Pontypool H (L)
Sep 3 Llanelli H (L)	Nov 25 Cross Keys (Fri) H	Feb 11 Maesteg A
Sep 7 Newport H (L)	Dec 3 Swansea H (L)	Feb 17 S.W.Police (Fri) A
Sep 10 Ebbw Vale A	Dec 10 Newbridge A (L)	Feb 25 Pontypridd A (L)
Sep 21 Blaenau Gwent H	Dec 17 SWALEC Cup	Mar 3 Blaina (Fri) A
Sep 24 Treorchy A (L)	Dec 21 Blaina (Wed) H	Mar 11 Cardiff H
Oct 1 Bridgend H (L)	Dec 24 Llanelli A (L)	Mar 17 Cross Keys (Fri) A
Oct 5 Aberavon (Wed) A	Dec 26 Ebbw Vale H	Mar 25 Tredegar A
Oct 8 Maesteg H	Jan 2 Newport A (L)	Apr 1 Neath A (L)
Oct 15 Pontypool A (L)	Jan 7 Treorchy H (L)	Apr 8 Glam Wnds A
Oct 22 S. W. Police H	Jan 11 Berry Hill (Wed) H	Apr 11 Llanhilleth (Wed) A
Oct 29 Pontypridd H (L)	Jan 14 Penarth A	Apr 15 Dunvant H (L)
Nov 5 Cardiff A (L)	Jan 20 Glam Wnd (Fri) H	Apr 18 Aberavon (Wed) A
Nov 12 Neath H (L)	Jan 28 SWALEC Cup	Apr 22 Penarth H
Nov 19 Dunvant A (L)	Feb 4 Bridge A (L)	Apr 29 Swansea A (L)

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See Compost Corner for details or contact Keith Davies (216429)

ABERTILLERY RFC CLUB QUIZ

1. Who came on for JPR Williams to win his only cap for Wales in 1979 against England?
2. Who scored 4 tries in 1969 in Wales' 30-9 win over England?
3. Which present Merthyr player, played on the right wing for Wales in 1990?
4. Who scored two tries for Wales against England at Twickenham in 1988?

Note: No Abertillery committee member may participate in the quiz.

Page to be torn out by person entering quiz and deposited at club house collection point after the game (e.g. closing time 6pm for submission of entries).

A prize of £10 will be paid to the person having the correct answers to all questions. In the event of more than one person doing so, then a draw will take place at 7pm at the club house.

Only one person can win the prize,

In the event of there being no prize-winner, then the next programme quiz will have an additional £10 added to the prize money.

Name

HEINEKEN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE (11/3/95)

	P	W	D	L	Tries	Points
CARDIFF	18	15	0	3	64	30
PONTYPRIDD	18	15	0	3	54	30
NEATH	18	11	2	5	24	24
BRIDGEND	18	10	1	7	48	21
SWANSEA	17	10	0	7	42	20
LLANELLI	18	8	0	9	36	16
TREORCHY	17	8	0	9	37	16
NEWBRIDGE	18	7	0	11	28	14
DUNVANT	17	5	1	11	23	11
ABERTILLERY	18	5	0	13	21	10
NEWPORT	17	5	0	12	18	10
PONTYPOOL	18	4	0	14	26	8

Llanelli, Two points deducted



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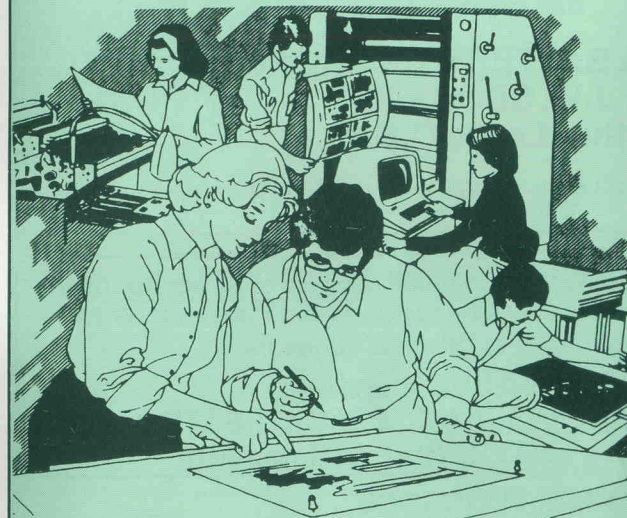
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