



Saturday, March 8th, 1930.

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## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

Published by the Cardiff and District Rugby Union.

Vol. X—No. 27

SATURDAY, MARCH 8th.

Price 2d.

### Play and Players.

Cardiff Rugby stock has gone down appreciably during the last few weeks, and it is a long time since we had to chronicle three defeats in two Saturdays. Has the International "fever" caused a bit of "bad circulation" in the blood, or is it a kind of re-action or temporary lapse which is inevitably the experience of every team. Two defeats in successive Saturdays is an unusual experience for Cravos' men—it was in October before that the side lost three matches running, and have since remained unbeaten until the Llanelly game a fortnight ago, when the Scarlets won an unsatisfactory game by the fashionable score of the season—a drop goal to wit. At that game the Cardiff forwards were badly beaten, and the Cardiff backs, while great on the defence, could do next to nothing in aggressive work, and so disappointed the Llanelly crowd. Cardiff have to bow the knee to Llanelly this season, the Sospan Fach brigade having won two and drawn one of the three matches played, and so win the rubber.

The game at Newport resulted in defeat by 9 points to 3, so that the Usksiders managed to avoid the ignominy of a fourth defeat for the season at the hands of the Blue and Blacks. That very fear probably inspired the Black and Ambers to an extra effort, and we were not surprised at the result, seeing that the Cardiff backs had to be reshuffled owing to the absence of Harry Bowcott, who was injured in the Llanelly game. None will begrudge Newport their win, seeing it was fully deserved on the run of the play, but it was a bit discomforting to learn that Cardiff were more or less out of the picture at various intervals in the game. However, we can confidently rely upon Cravos and his men re-asserting themselves once more and giving us a series of thrills between now and the end of the season. Boon's departure for college has rather upset matters behind the scrum, because we had become so accustomed to his thrilling partnership with Graham Jones. It is a pity that Boon is prevented from playing to-day in the International owing to illness.

The third defeat referred to was that sustained at home by the "Pittards," who most unexpectedly succumbed to Briton Ferry in the return match a fortnight ago, thus allowing the West Wales side to bring off the "double." It is difficult to conceive such a happening, but it is only typical of the "Pittards'" record in almost every similar fixture this season. There has again been constant changing among the backs, and the side has never really had a chance to settle down as naturally expected. It is patent to everybody that there has been something radically wrong with our other side, and perhaps after all the chopping and changing of players will more or less be a blessing in disguise if out of the present unsatisfactory state of affairs a really sound team will be built up for the future.

The Boys' International on the Park last Saturday was enjoyed by all, but considering everything, England were somewhat unlucky in losing, and the standard of play generally was not quite up to that of former years, so far as the Welsh boys' play was concerned.

### To-Day's Guests.

We have often referred in these columns to various clubs in the adjacent valleys who have gallantly kept the Rugby flag flying, despite terrible odds, and who have from time to time been assisted in their endeavours by the Cardiff Rugby Club. Among such clubs may be included

to-day's guests, Pontypridd, to whom we extend the heartiest of welcomes.

Pontypridd is a club which bears an honoured name: it has a career somewhere in the region of half a century, and it has turned out quite a galaxy of players, several of whom gained International honours from time to time. The club's accomplishments are all the more wonderful seeing that the Metropolis of the Valleys has for many years been the centre of the combined activities of professional Soccer and Rugby. The very existence of the Amateur Rugby organisation was threatened—indeed many prophesied its ultimate demise, but they did not make allowance for the grit and tenacity of the pioneers of the Rugby Union game nor for the grim earnestness of their successors in office to carry on the good work. Fighting against every kind of vicissitudes and obstacles and even poverty, Amateur Rugby has emerged from a conflict such as few clubs, if any, have had to contend with, and to-day they are enjoying a far bigger share of comparative prosperity than they have for many years, while the other codes have either completely died away or are suffering a lingering death.

For many seasons Pontypridd have had struggles to carry on efficiently from the purely team point of view, apart from the financial standpoint. They may not recently have had players of the calibre of a few old stalwarts such as Billy Rees, Ernie George, the McGregors, Frank Hawkins, to quote a few haphazard, but they have rebuilt and re-modelled their side to such an extent, mainly by the introduction of a good sprinkling of promising youth, that their side to-day is a formidable one, and probably the best turned out for 20 years. In this period of reconstruction, which has meant a complete renaissance of the club and its fortunes, many hard-working officials and committeemen have given of their best, and one cannot help congratulating their present chairman, Superintendent J. L. Rees, M.B.E., and the new secretary, Mr. Harold E. Roberts, for the fitting climax which has attended their efforts and those of other local sportsmen.

A gratifying feature of Pontypridd Rugby of late is that it has become directly associated with Schools' Rugby in the town, and further it has also formed an Ex-Schoolboy side—thus the effective connecting links between Schoolboy and Senior football has been definitely established, and Pontypridd should go on from success to success.

The side to-day is composed chiefly of old Schoolboy Internationals and Reserves. There is the left centre, a very promising player, A. Loosemore, only 17 years of age, who played for the Welsh Schoolboys against England in 1927. The inside half, J. Kelleher, a Cardiff boy, played for Wales as a Schoolboy in the same year as Norman Fender, and this season even played for Glamorgan County. There are, of course, a few "Veterans" in the side, who are an inspiration to the others. Among them is Dick Elliott, the popular captain, and Frank Lee, who played for Cardiff for a few seasons, also for Glamorgan and in the Final Trial this season—a good honest forward was Frank.

During the present season Pontypridd have defeated Bridgend, Maesteg, Ebbw Vale, Pill Harriers, Treorchy and Abertillery. They captured Briton Ferry's ground record a week after the Ferry defeated Cardiff. Then, we must not forget, Pontypridd defeated Cardiff at Pontypridd last November by 22 points to 3. So to-day Dr. Pittard's side have something to rub off the slate. We are assured of a pleasant game, and we can



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Left Centre  
Left Wing  
Inside Half  
Outside Half

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L. THOMAS  
W. H. JONES  
A. LOOSEMORE  
W. WILLIAMS  
J. KELLEHER  
J. TOMLIN

#### CARDIFF

(A) H. V. MARSHALL  
(E) I. EVANS  
(D) H. JONES  
(C) EDGAR PRICE  
(B) C. MILLS  
(G) KEN HARRIES  
(F) KEN WILLIAMS

Full Back  
Left Wing  
Left Centre  
Right Centre  
Right Wing  
Inside Half  
Outside Half

Referee

Mr. C. REES DIXON.

Cross Keys.



Kick-off 3.30 p.m.

Forwards

R. ELLIOTT (Capt.)  
F. LEE  
A. THOMAS  
J. HARRIS  
T. ROBERTS  
H. VAUGHAN  
S. LOTT  
W. LLOYD

(H) Dr. T. J. PITTARD, Capt.  
(I) H. WATKINS  
(J) G. RETTER  
(K) J. SEXTON  
(L) S. JOYCE  
(M) GRIFF WILLIAMS  
(N) H. A. BULL  
(O) VIC CRAVOS

Forwards

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confidently depend upon Pontypridd giving us an exhibition of good open football such as has restored them to such a high pedestal this season, and which will be the determining factor in the continued prosperity of the club in the future. *Floreat, Pontypridd!*

### Further Cardiff Honours.

While many Cardiffians are still sore that so many of the Blue and Blacks have been dropped from the National side, there is further consolation in the award of a cap to Norman Fender, and the selection of Howard Poole to accompany the British Rugby Team on its tour of New Zealand and Australia, and his choice as reserve inside half for to-day's game with Ireland. Many thought Poole would have gained the honour of representing his country, and had he got in for the Scottish game, the effectiveness of his partnership with Frank Williams would have re-acted upon the Cardiff quartette behind in such a manner that a different tale might have had to be told regarding that particular game. Poole has undoubtedly been playing a greatly improved game during the last three months, and everybody is delighted that he has been chosen to go abroad, while everybody is convinced he will uphold the traditions of his club—as its sole representative—in what should prove a memorable tour.

Cardiffians are too fully conversant with Norman Fender's brilliance to need any detailed comment here, but it is safe to assume that the honour paid him has been received with as much delight outside as in Cardiff itself. Fender as a Schoolboy International foreshadowed still higher honours, and without any question or doubt, he is one of the finest "loose" forwards produced by Wales for many years. The following is the note appearing in to-day's Ireland v. Wales programme regarding him:—

"**NORMAN FENDER** (Cardiff), *Forward*. While every true sportsman in this and other countries extremely regret the dropping of that great forward, Hor Jones, of Llanelly, for to-day's game, the severance is tempered by the act of justice which has been meted out to his natural successor as a rover, Norman Fender, whose first cap is being hailed with delight in many quarters. Fender has for some time past been demonstrating his claims to be one of the brainiest and most constructive loose forwards in present day Rugby, and a clever display for his club against Newport the other day brought him the present coveted honour which it can be truly said, has unchallenge-

ably been gained on sheer merit. Is a Welsh Schoolboy International, and captained the Schoolboys against England. Played subsequently for the Cardiff Rugby Supporters' team, and three years ago was drafted into the Cardiff premier side. Can play in practically any position outside the scrum, is a wonderful kick, clever and alert at seizing an opening himself or for putting his backs in motion. Probably the smallest forward on the field, but the most dangerous."

All eyes will be focussed on St. Helen's, Swansea, this afternoon. Will Wales avoid defeat? We doubt it, although sheer desperation may incite the side to make a great rally. But Ireland are keen on winning, as they would then win the Triple Crown, and also have a chance of heading the Championship Table. It will be a titanic struggle, and we all naturally hope that Wales will prove the better side.

### Next Saturday's Attraction.

A splendid game should ensue on the Park next Saturday, when the opposition will be supplied by the Glamorgan League, i.e. the pick of players from clubs in the Rhondda and Merthyr and adjacent Valleys. In times gone by, the League gave Cardiff sides great games, and often they appeared on the Park as a Boxing Day fixture. In those days many great players assisted the visitors, and many readers will recollect that it was in a game against the League that Arthur Cornish had the extreme misfortune to break his leg. Treorchy are the present champions of the League, and it can be taken for granted that a very fine side will be got together to meet Cardiff, one in which we may expect the visiting forwards to more than hold their own, even if their backs may not have the polish of our own rear division.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 9th.				
SHREWSBURY .. .. .	10 30	1 15	11 10	5 6
WREXHAM .. .. .		2 0	10 20	7 0
CHESTER .. .. .		2 21	10 0	7 6
BIRKENHEAD .. .. .		2 50	9 30	8 0
SUNDAY, MARCH 9th.				
BRISTOL (STAPLETON ROAD) .. .. .	12 25	2 17	9 10	3 6
(LAWRENCE HILL) .. .. .		2 22	9 0	
SATURDAY, MARCH 15th.			<i>M'dnt.</i>	
LONDON (PADDDINGTON) .. .. .	12 32	3 30	1 10	8 6

Full Particulars can be obtained at the Stations and Offices.

Paddington, March, 1930.

JAMES MILNE, General Manager.

## The Season's Fixture List and Record.

1929		For.	Agst.	1930		For.	Agst.
Sept. 2	Cardiff and District Union..	43	0	Jan. 4	Bristol.....	19	3
" 7	Bridgend.....	13	8	" 4	Bristol United .....	0	14
" 9	Torquay.....	11	8	" 8	Bridgend.....	8	8
" 14	Bristol United .....	9	26	" 11	Penygraig .....	Cancelled	
" 19	Bristol.....	6	11	" 11	Swansea .....	Postp'd	
" 19	Penarth.....	9	5	" 25	Brynmawr .....	51	3
" 21	Pontypool.....	9	0	Feb. 1	Neath .....	0	0
" 21	Brynmawr .....	8	8	" 1	Cinderford .....	3	6
" 28	Skewen .....	16	4	" 8	Stroud.....	Postp'd	
" 28	Llanelli .....	3	5	" 8	Gloucester .....	3	3
Oct. 5	Newport.....	3	0	" 15	Newport.....	8	0
" 12	Treorchy.....	Postp'd		" 15	Edgware .....	5	6
" 12	Abergavenny .....	24	6	" 22	Briton Ferry .....	3	5
" 12	Coventry.....	6	13	" 22	Llanelli .....	0	4
" 19	Gloucester .....	9	10	Mar. 1	Newport.....	3	9
" 19	Bath .....	10	9	" 8	Pontypridd.....		
" 26	Cinderford .....	35	0	" 15	Plymouth Albion .....		
" 26	Blackheath.....	3	8	" 15	Glamorgan League .....		
Nov. 2	Treorchy.....	6	15	" 22	Skewen .....		
" 9	Newport.....	9	5	" 22	Blackheath .....		
" 9	Pontypool.....	8	6	" 26	Maesteg .....		
" 16	Cross Keys.....	9	12	" 26	Penarth .....		
" 16	Portsmouth Services.....	14	0	" 29	Abertillery .....		
" 23	Pontypridd.....	3	22	" 29	Pontypool.....		
" 23	Edgware .....	0	3	Apl. 5	Maesteg .....		
" 30	Swansea .....	18	6	" 5	Pill Harriers .....		
" 30	Aberavon .....	10	9	" 12	Swansea .....		
" 30	Briton Ferry .....	6	9	" 12	Stroud.....		
Dec. 7	Swansea .....	3	3	" 19	Barbarians .....		
" 14	Pontardawe .....	Postp'd		" 19	Bedford .....		
" 14	Plymouth Albion .....	17	10	" 21*	Harlequins .....		
" 21	Penygraig .....	0	0	" 21	Cheltenham .....		
" 21	Cheltenham .....	20	8	" 22	Coventry.....		
" 24	Neath .....	6	3	" 26	Aberavon .....		
" 24	London Welsh .....	23	0	May 3	Llanelli .....		
" 26†	Blna .....	8	17				
" 26†	London Irish .....	40	3				
" 27	Abergavenny .....	3	3				
" 27	Watsonians.....	11	0				
" 28	Llanelli .....	3	3				

† Boxing Day.

\* Easter Monday.

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