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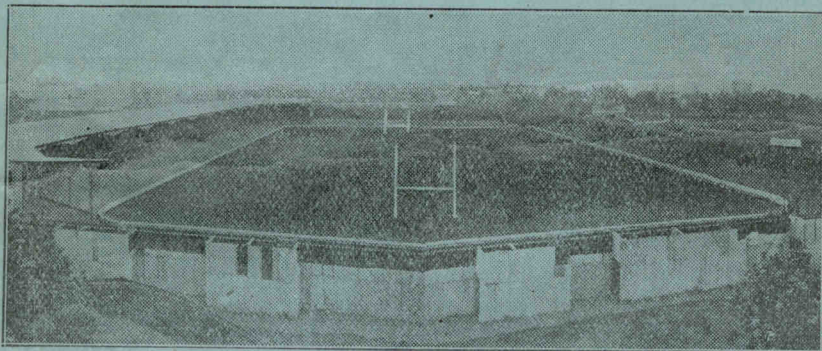


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Season 1925—1926

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

Published by the Cardiff Rugby Supporters' Committee.

Vol. VI.—No. 25.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th, 1926.

Price 2d.

Play and Players.

Calmly reviewing the holiday matches we can sum up the situation by saying that Cardiff played both well and badly—we have previously referred to the Barbarians match, and with regard to the Harlequins game, Cardiff had the best of matters territorially, but they could not press home their advantage, and failed to take opportunities to score, and as our friends from London availed themselves of their chances, then the credit must be given to them for securing the victory. For all that, it was a splendid game, and to Danny Davies

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must be given the credit for scoring one of the most brilliant tries scored on the Park for many years past.

It is regarding the Northampton match on Tuesday that we feel sore. We have always held that too many matches are played during the holiday period—the best of players cannot stand the strain of three matches, whereas there is the usual quota of "crooked" players. On this occasion there was also a question of the International absentee owing to the game at Paris, and the result of it all was that Cardiff placed in the field a mere shadow of a team, and they seemed to display very little life and absolutely no cohesion. We thought that

at least a capable pack might have turned out, and had this been the case we might have secured sufficient control of the ball to win. But with Idris Richards, Cliff Williams, S. Hinam T. Lewis, J. Burns, F. Lee and M. Regan absent, then little could be expected from the forwards, and even the sporting action of J. S. Chuck, of the Harlequins, and J. M. Durr, Guy's Hospital, who turned out at the last moment, failed to stay the rot, and the Northampton forwards enjoyed a complete mastery.

Added to this was a complete misunderstanding at half back, where unfortunately A. Griffiths, at inside half, was completely out-shadowed.

At threequarter we had a fair line out, but even here there was very little attempt at intelligent passing and a total absence of concerted movements—indeed it was singular what a complete lack of understanding was displayed. It is only fair, however, to say that Johnson who was pressed into service at the last minute, was far from fit. It was a great pity that Danny Davies, the captain, could not turn out, as he was suffering from a mass of sores and bruises through his efforts in the two previous matches. His inspired leadership would have turned the scales in our favour, but as it was, there was no leader fore or aft, and we suffered an ignominious defeat in consequence. W. E. Crawford, the Irish International full back,

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kindly turned out for us, and although the visitors pressed the greater part of the game, strangely he was never called upon to do any serious work.

We have not written the foregoing in order to detract from Northampton's win, as they fully deserved the honours. Their play sometimes was very scrappy, but they contributed all the football that was going, chief credit belonging to their vanguard, which included some very clever forwards in T. Harris, R. Webb and E. Fidgett, the latter scoring a splendid try after John Roberts had unfortunately stumbled in fielding a cross kick.

The outstanding man among the Northampton team was Millward, the inside half, but he almost spoilt his exhibition by a proneness to get off side. Steyn, who played outside half, kicked far too much, but D. Williams and Haselmere on the wing did very well, and the whole of the backs were ably supported by R. Vaughan at full back.

The exhibition given by Cardiff was exceedingly disappointing, but it might be a blessing in disguise if only to stimulate the committee to immediate action to build up powerful sides for next season, when two first-class teams are to be run. It is a tremendous responsibility.

THE SPHINX.

Semi-Final Dewar Shield on Wednesday, April 14th, at 6 p.m. on the Park. Newport Boys v. Cardiff Boys. Admission—Stand 1/-, Enclosure 6d. Boys half price.

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In the history of both Blackheath and Cardiff there is probably more tradition attached to their meeting than to any other fixture on their respective cards—perhaps this is even more so at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, where Cardiff's visit is one of the outstanding events of the season.

The last match at Blackheath in October last resulted in a fine win for Cardiff by 17 points to 8, but they were then shaping like an invincible team. For to-day's game, Blackheath have a very formidable team out. Their full back, C. J. King-Turner, has earned a great reputation for himself.

The ubiquitous A. T. Young, England's inside half, is due to play, and if he displays the same form as that shown for the Baa Baas, he is bound to cause trouble, but he will be up

against the stiffest proposition possible in Delahay, who will doubtless have a good reception after captaining the Welsh team to victory at Eastertime.

The Blackheath pack looks strong on paper, and includes W. E. Tucker, the English International, and I. M. B. Stuart, the Irish International, others of the best known being Gwynne, Oldfield and Saunders. We are expecting a great game, as Blackheath are not afraid to play the typical open style of football whatever the result.

Random Notes.

By L. E. WILLIAMS.

The holiday games of the Cardiff Club (Xmas and Easter) provided some unexpected results. Very few would have imagined Coventry would, on Boxing Day, relieve the Blue and Blacks of their ground record, and probably fewer still thought the Taffsiders would have lost two of the three Easter games. Such is Fate.

The performance against the Baa Baas was a meritorious one, and bearing in mind the fact that a somewhat weaker Baa Baa team managed to out-pace Newport and defeat them, the showing put up by the Cardiff side (minus three of their International players) was very noteworthy.

With Delahay, Cornish and Hinam in the side, I have an idea we would have preserved an unbeaten Easter certificate, whereas, as it is—well, good luck to the winners.

The eclipse of the Cardiff team may be a little unnerving to their supporters, but the superlative centre form of Danny Davies has been a revelation. Talking about next season

is going a little too far into the future, and besides, Danny may (or may not) think he has had nearly enough of the stern stuff you and I have grown to recognise as Rugger, but if there were more International games this present season, most surely would Danny find himself the proud possessor of a Welsh Cap, for his play has been that of a real centre. Who knows, but next season—well, we'll wait and see.

Wales have demonstrated to the rest of the football world that she is a long way from being a dead thing. To wind up the season with a better record than England is something to be pleased about, and there should be cause for further rejoicing, next season, if the Selectors get about their business in anything like the same manner as they have this 1925-26 season.

Moving in mixed circles, one finds many reasons for the previous lean times in Welsh Rugger, and I have come across people who have said "But it's alright now, we have the public school element to draw upon, and they play the kind of football we like to see." Now, personally, I do not look upon the public school element as the potential saviours of the code in Wales. Such a view savours of something closely allied to snobbery, and I have an idea that we have lads in our midst who will never darken the portals of public schools, and who may have to pass their boyhood's days carrying baskets for butchers, bakers, and other folk, but these lads have just as much of a love for the game, and given equal chances, are likely to make more than good in Welsh International jerseys.

If public school players have some-

Continued on page 6.

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Inside Half : *A. T. Young (7)		Outside Half : J. T. Kemp (6)	
Forwards : A. D. Oldfield (8)	H. R. Saunders (9)	P. G. Chichester (10)	W. E. Pratten (11)
M. W. A. Harris (12)	F. H. X. Gwynne (13)	*W. E. Tucker (14)	*I. M. B. Stuart (15)

* Internationals.

Referee :
Mr. R. Fearn,
Blaengarw.



Kick-off
3.30 p.m.

Forwards from Idris Richards (H)	S. Hinam (I)	Cliff Williams (J)	F. Lee (K)	J. Burns (L)
E. Spillane (N)	K. R. Turnbull (O)	Tom Lewis (P)	W. Ireson (R)	M. O'Regan (T)
Inside Half : W. J. Delahay (F)		Outside Half : Gwyn Richards (G)		
Left Wing : John Roberts (E)	Left Centre : D. E. Davies, Capt. (D) or B. R. Turnbull (D)	Right Centre : R. A. Cornish (C)	Right Wing : T. Johnson (B)	
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Continued from page 3.

thing to bring with them which will brighten and improve the game, let's hail them with delight, but I could name a very prominent player who scarcely knows which end of the pen is for use, but who has displayed football genius—and, by the way, he

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is no exception, for there are many players who display real uncanniness in football but are hopeless when it comes to working out anything in the nature of a poser.

It is good for us to pause and remember that the man in the street has a lot due to him for his support of the game, and he will always want to feel that his boy, minus the public school education, is as good as the next one when it comes to playing in the same team. After all, sport should be a grand leveller.

Blackheath come to us to-day, almost fresh from their victory over Newport not so many weeks ago. After ever so many years of defeat, they have turned the corner, and the Usksiders had to submit to defeat at their hands. Will the 'Heathens win to-day? By the way, why call them "Heathens" when they come from the "Rectory" ground?

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BOWLS SECTION.

Special attention is drawn to the Whist Drive and Dance to be held under the auspices of the above at the Victoria Hall, Brunswick Street, Canton, on Thursday, April 15th next. A similar function held earlier in the season was a distinct success financially and socially, but our friends assure us that they are out to eclipse all their past achievements. We sincerely hope that our readers will make early application for tickets, and thus enable our Bowling Section to start the season well. Tickets may be obtained from members of the committee and friends.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCH.

Cardiff's home programme for the season concludes on Saturday next, when Swansea figure on the Park. Whatever the record of the All Whites, they always play a good game at Cardiff, and we have no doubt that they will be out to avenge the last defeat inflicted upon them by the Blue and Blacks at Swansea. We confidently expect both sides to rise to the occasion and give us something tangible to think of as we wish adieu to the Park at the close of another season.

Schoolboy Notes.

NEXT WEDNESDAY'S SEMI-FINAL.

Cardiff Boys meet Newport Boys in the Semi-Final of the Dewar Shield on the Park next Wednesday, April 14th, kick off at 6 p.m., when it is hoped that a good crowd will be present. Apart from the importance of the occasion, it should be a good game between evenly matched sides. When they met in a friendly at Newport earlier in the season Newport won by three tries to one, but the Cardiff threequarters have improved a good deal since then. Newport have a good and heavy pack and will hold the advantage here, but the Cardiff backs are, I think, undoubtedly speedier. It is rather a coincidence that in the only year on record in which neither Cardiff or Newport have had a "cap" in the International that they should both have reached the semi-final stage. In the East the winners of Swansea and Llanelli are at home to Neath, the present holders in the other semi-final. The final will be played on neutral ground, either at Bridgend or Aberavon, on a date not yet fixed.

The semi-final of the "Sports" Cup on Wednesday provided a real good game, with plenty of open play, St. Peter's, after being 11 points to 3 in arrears, with less than twenty minutes to go, pulled themselves together to score three unconverted tries in rapid succession to win a more open game than is usually seen in a cup match by a single point, the score being 12 points to 11.

St. Peter's have qualified to meet the M.S.S. in the final of both the "Hughes Evans" and "Sports" Cups. Owing to the holidays the dates for the playing of these games cannot be yet fixed. F.N.

Supporters Notes.

OUR EX-SCHOOLBOY TEAMS.

Tall scoring has been the fashion with both our teams over the holidays. On Saturday our team met and defeated the Old Cantonians to the tune of 27 points to 8. The result came as a surprise to the defeated, as our Cantonian friends have a good record, and made no secret of their determination to win this game. But, as the score shews, they were easily

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defeated, but the game was played in true sporting spirit, and we sincerely hope to renew acquaintance with this team next season.

Great as was the surprise of this match, it was nothing compared to the result of the game on the Cardiff Arms Park on Easter Monday morning, when our League team met the Tondy Ex-Schoolboys. This team have the honour of being champions of the Bridgend and District Ex-Schoolboys League, and are the only team to defeat us in three seasons, and this fact inspired our boys with the determination to wipe off this blot on their sheet. When the teams fielded it was noticed that the visitors were the heavier side, but from the kick off it was proved that superior skill and combination can more than make up for any deficiency in weight. There was only one team in it, our boys showing how the game can be played. Their passing at times was truly brilliant, and quite bewildered the Tondy boys, but the visitors to the end played in true sporting fashion. Final score—Supporters, 5 goals, 7 tries (45 points); Tondy, 1 try (3 points).

Our Senior team scored another good victory on Tuesday morning, when they met Resolven Ex-Schoolboys on the Llandaff North ground. The visitors are a good side, always playing clean, open football, win or lose, and are popular wherever they play. This game was of an enjoyable nature, both teams giving the ball plenty of air.

The forwards were fairly evenly matched, but in the back division our lads were superior, all the scores coming from them, the final score reading—Supporters, 14 points; Resolven, nil.

We are glad to see our old friend, Mr. J. Beckett, amongst us again after his long illness, but regret that he is still unwell. "Joe," as he is familiarly called, is very popular with the boys and committee, and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery. G.H.L.

International Comments.

The last of the matches in the International Tourney was played on Easter Monday at Paris, when Wales just managed to beat France by 1 dropped goal and 1 try (7 points) to 1 converted goal (5 points). It was a narrow squeak for Wales but a glorious defeat for France. By all accounts Wales played below form, and the one chief satisfaction that emerges out of the conflict is the fact that Wales comes third in the table—a bitter pill for England, who are the lowest among the four home countries with only one win, with France a miserable last with no win. The final table for the season reads thus:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Scores	Pts.
Ireland	-	4	3	1	0	41 26 6
Scotland	-	4	3	1	0	45 23 6
Wales	-	4	2	1	1	26 24 5
England	-	4	1	2	1	38 39 3
France	-	4	0	4	0	11 49 0

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Mr. D. E. DAVIES, Captain.
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Mr. W. J. DELAHAY, Vice-Captain.

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FIRST FIFTEEN.

1925		For.	Agst.	1926		For.	Agst.
Sep. 2	(Wed.) District Union.....h	20	3	Jan. 23	Neath.....h	14	9
" 5	Bridgend.....h	21	6	" 30	Portsmouth Services.....h	18	3
" 9	(Wed.) Pill Harriers.....h	20	0	Feb. 1	(Mon.) Plymouth Albion.....a	3	9
" 12	Pontypool.....h	11	3	" 6	Llanelli.....a	9	15
" 19	Bristol.....a	3	3	" 6	Scotland v. Wales (Edinburgh).....h	5	8
" 26	Swansea.....h	14	4	" 13	Gloucester.....h	12	5
Oct. 3	Newport.....a	16	11	" 20	Leicester.....a	3	8
" 10	Plymouth Albion.....h	12	10	" 22	(Mon.) Northampton.....a	14	10
" 17	Gloucester.....a	8	8	" 27	Newport.....a	5	8
" 24	Blackheath.....a	17	8	Mar. 6	Swansea.....a	19	3
" 28	(Wed.) St. Bart's H.....h	10	8	" 6	England (Boys).....(Cardiff)	15	5
" 31	Aberavon.....h	6	3	" 13	Ireland v. Wales.....(Swansea)	11	8
Nov. 7	Portsmouth Services.....a	0	8	" 13	Penarth.....h	9	6
" 14	Newport.....h	5	3	" 18	Neath.....a	9	19
" 21	Swansea.....a	6	16	" 20	Newport.....h	9	5
" 28	Leicester.....h	9	3	" 27	Guy's Hospital.....h	25	4
Dec. 12	Llanelli.....h	15	10	" 30	(Tues.) Llanelli.....a	11	20
" 19	Moseley.....h	13	3	Apr. 3	Barbarians.....h	8	4
" 24	(Xmas Eve) Devonport Ser. h	15	15	" 5	Harlequins.....h	5	6
" 26	Coventry.....h	9	11	" 5	France v. Wales.....(Paris)	7	5
1926				" 6	(Tues.) Northampton.....h	0	8
Jan. 2	Bristol.....h	12	6	" 10	Blackheath.....h		
" 9	Aberavon.....a	8	12	" 17	Swansea.....h		
" 16	Bath.....a	13	13	" 24	Pontypool.....a		
" 16	England v. Wales.....(Cardiff)	3	3	" 28	(Wed.) Bridgend.....a		

* Boxing Day.

* Easter Monday.

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