Pontypridd Rugby Football Club

Cardiff RFC

Saturday 3 March 1979

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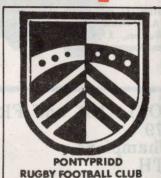
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Club Notes

Once again it is our pleasure to welcome Cardiff RFC and their members to the Sardis Road Ground, for our first ever clash in the WRU Challenge Cup Competition.

Already the teams have met twice, each having won on their own ground. Today's match is of extreme importance to both Clubs where a win will ensure a semi-final spot, and just one step away from the Final.

Already, our visitors have shown their fighting qualities in Cup Competition, where only last Saturday they swept the Pontypool challenge aside for a comfortable victory. Tommy David will not underestimate today's challenge, and will again have to call on his team to stave off Cardiff's challenge, and of course to defend our ground record.

In past matches against the 'Blue and Blacks', Pontypridd have always responded to the challenge. Robin Morgan, former Cardiff player was denied the opportunity to renew combat with his former Club last Boxing Day, and will again relish his duel with current International Terry Holmes, who has run in to top form at the right time for his Club.

Stuart Lewis is another former Cardiffian who will be pleased to be in today's team. His display last Boxing Day fell far below his normal standard, and he will be eager to show that he is a far more accomplished player than his game indicated on that day.

Cardiff's Gareth Davies proved a thorn in our flesh at our last meeting, and we look to our back row, who have to curb our visitor's halves if victory is to come our way today.

Our match against Ebbw Vale mid-week proved to be hard and uncompromising in atrocious conditions. However, the standard of football was very high and Pontypridd won a deserved victory by 13 points to 6. Skipper Tommy David and Chris Seldon appear to be on top form, and with mid-field players S. Flynn and C. Riley carving out the openings, everything augers well for our match this afternoon, which promises to be a titanic struggle for supremacy.

Our congratulations to Bob Penberthy who played his 700th game against Ebbw Vale, and sincere hopes that he maintains his lineout skills against this afternoon's visitors.

The wings had little opportunity to show their paces last Wednesday, and full back lan Walsh had a relatively quiet evening. It is hoped that weather conditions will relent for today's game to take place, where each and every player is guaranteed a hard afternoon's work.

Whatever result is achieved, there is no doubt that the game will be played in the best spirit, and as in past games between the respective Clubs, the game of Rugby Football will be the winner.

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COEDPENMAEN WORKS

15 Ian Walsh -

14 Colin Bolderson

13 Colin Riley

12 Steve Flynn Karl Swain

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CASH WAITING

SPOT

10 Stuart Lewis

9 Robin Morgan

Wavne Evans

2 Mike Alexander

3 Ray Lott

4 Bob Penberthy

5 David Shellard

6 Don Jones

7 Tommy David (Capt.)

8 Chris Seldon

Replacements from:

Jeff Hazzard Steve Cannon

Garrett Llewellyn

David Rees Kevin Salmon

Neil Wilding

John Luff

Referee: Mr. K. C. Parfitt (Port Talbot)

The management committee of the Pontypridd RFC wish to thank Mr. George Edwards (Pembroke), who has very kindly sponsored the match ball for today's game.

15 Glyn Davies

14 Derek Preece S

13 Paul Elliot

12 Pat Daniels

11 Chris Camilleri

10 Gareth Davies

Terry Holmes

Barry Nelmes (Capt.)

2 Alun Phillips 3 John Dixon

Peter Rawlings

5 Robert Norster

Robert Dudley-Jones

7 Stuart Lane

8 Roger Lane

Replacements:

16 Paul Rees

17 Huw Davies

18 Alun Thomas

19 Laurence O'Brien

20 Don Llewellyn

21 Hans de Goode

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Ron's chit-chat

The quarter-finals of the Welsh Cup, to my mind, are possibly the most nerve-racking of all the rounds. They seem to lie in that limbo-land between the faintly unreal earlier rounds, with rows of Davids queueing up to topple the various Goliaths, and the real nitty-gritty of the semi-finals, where the order of the day is 'dog eat dog' with a vengeance. Perhaps it is for that reason that we have not done ourselves justice at this particular hurdle. Nor have the gods who preside over the game particularly favoured us at this stage, for if there is such a thing as 'the rub of the green' or 'the bounce of the ball' then the green has rubbed and the ball has bounced pretty consistently against us. At Rodney Parade last season, for instance, we did enough to win three times over and still managed to fail, and strong men still weep at the memory of that quarter-final at Pontypool three seasons ago when the home side kicked their winning penalty in the 7th minute of injury time. I was going to include the Bridgend game where we crossed the line four times and had them all disallowed, but I believe that was actually a third round game. Still, such memories make us apprehensive, and when we consider today's opponents, it is a hard job to decide whether I am delighted or dejected at the prospect of tilting with a Cardiff side that must be brimful of confidence after travelling to Pontypool and beating them convincingly - rather like getting ten 'A' levels. Of course, it is always an honour and a privelege to play Cardiff, and if we can emerge successful today, then surely we are through the hardest hurdle. To achieve it, our team must play at their highest level, and I hope I do not sound arrogant when I say that our highest level is too good for anyone that I have seen yet. To do it, we must play our own game, the one we know best, fast and fluid, creating plenty of loose ball bouncing around and moving it quickly from there. The fact that Cardiff tend to play exactly the same type of game merely adds spice to the occasion, and we could well have a quarter-final really worthy of the great competition the Schweppes/WRU Cup has become.

One thing we all hope is that the standard of crowd sportsmanship will remain very high, so that we can all enjoy our rivalries in the very best of rugby atmosphere. During Saturday's game against London Irish, for example, our visitors, who enjoyed themselves very much indeed, were afterwards quick to comment that our Sardis Road crowd gave them tremendous encouragement and applause at all times. Their incursions into Wales are very rare indeed — they have, in the past, played Bridgend and at Aberavon — but I am happy to report that they are now extremely anxious to establish a permanent relationship with us, a desire which Fixture Sec. Mr. Graham Gittins is onlytoo pleased to reciprocate. So yet again it is pointed out how important a role sportsmanship plays. It may be an old fashioned concept, but how much more enjoyable it is to hear a home crowd erupt into genuine applause at some piece of fine play by our visitors, who have often come long distances to entertain and be entertained by us. We at Sardis Road will support our team with every breath that is in us, but I hope we will never forget that there are always two teams on the field. Let us leave Cardiff and their supporters tonight in no doubt whatever that, whatever the final result, we are and always will be delighted to see their great team display its talents on our home patch.

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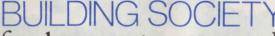
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

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Tues.			
Wed.	13	Penarth	A
Sat.	16	Torquay	H
Sat.	23	Ebbw Vale	A
Wed.	27	Cardiff	B
Sat.	30	Lydney	A
Octobe	r		
Sat.	7	Wakefield	H
Wed.	11	South Wales Police	H
Sat.	14	Nuneaton	A
Wed.	18	Glam, Wanderers	H
Sun.	22	Rugby	H
Wed.	25	Cardiff College of Ed.	Н
Sat.	28	Newbridge	. A
Novem	ber		
Wed.	1	Bridgend	H
Sun.	5	Abertillery	A
Fri.	10	Cheltenham	H
Sat.	18	1st Round WRU Cup	
Wed.	22	Pontypool	H
Sat.	25	Birmingham	H
Decem			
Sat.	2 6	Sale	A
Wed.	6	Cross Keys	H
Sat.	9	Maesteg	A
Sat.	16	2nd. Round. WRU Cu	p
Wed.	20	Newport	H
Sat.	23	Neath	A
Tues.	26	Cardiff	A
Sat.	30	Aberavon	A

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURFS

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Sat.	23	Barry Plastics		
Wed.	27	Cardiff Athletic		
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Fri.	2 3	Tredegar	A
Sat.	3	Wales v Ireland	
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