



Next Home Game : ABERAVON
Saturday, 19th April, 1980 K.O. 3.00 p.m.

ST. HELENS GROUND, SWANSEA

SWANSEA

V

CARDIFF

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EDITORIAL

Swansea Supporters have enjoyed a feast of spectacular rugby over the Easter weekend with thrilling victories over the Harlequins and Barbarians. It has been an exciting season with more to come as this afternoon our visitors are one of Wales' most respected sides who proudly wear the blue and black of Cardiff.

The Welsh Rugby Union will next season be celebrating their Centenary Year. Both Cardiff and Swansea will be taking an active part in the proceedings when they entertain New Zealand. They play at Cardiff on October 18th and at Swansea on October 25th, an honour which both clubs so richly deserve.

Cardiffs record this season shows them in the very respectable position of fourth in the Championship Table, however injuries to players have had an unsettling effect on their performances. They have recently been without the services of their captain Gareth Davies, and for a longer period Andrew Yean-dle on the wing.

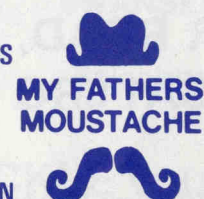
As usual they made their valuable contribution to the Welsh team when they supplied the half backs Gareth Davies and Terry Holmes, and forwards Stuart Lane and Alan Phillips, with Chris Webber on the replacement bench. The four Cardiff internationals will also be on the Lions tour to South Africa.

Against the Barbarians Cardiff made two interesting inclusions in their side, at scrum half they had Gwynfor Williams brother of Brynmor and at flank forward Owen Golding who is the present captain of the South Glamorgan Institute and led his side against Swansea recently.

A word of appreciation for Ian Robinson. Capped for Wales in 1974, Robbo has given splendid service to Cardiff and has remained loyal to his club.

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I must confess to feelings of unreason where the Barbarians are concerned. Nowadays I feel irritated when they take penalty kicks at goal like any normal club side; forgetting that the fact that they do so, may well be as much a compliment to our strength as anything else.

And in my early days, I thought it unjust that, being able to select players whence they wished, the Committee Box, at least the Barbarians part of it, should erupt with excitement whenever they scored a try. And worse, they sang: "It's a way we have in the Baa-Baas" indeed! I disapproved. I felt that a decent reserve should have been maintained from opposition which could command endless talent.

What compounded the irritation was that, on Easter Monday evenings, as I studied the "Sporting Post", I read of the exploits that afternoon, of such as Aberavon. "Rover", their reporter, was invariably in ecstasies on such occasions. At regular and frequent intervals, one learnt, Aberavon had scored "a gem of a try". Accurate description, no doubt; the Wizards had excellent backs.

What I did not consider was the relative strength of the opposition. Aberavon played Wellington, the Somerset Club, then (and since, sadly, no longer) just "first class" — though far removed from their strength forty years earlier when the legendary S. M. J. Woods was their captain.

But we had played the Barbarians, and we had suffered our customary defeat — indeed for some ten years, up to 1938, the Barbarians were triumphant.

There was another thing I did not realise. I had come on the scene at a time when the Barbarians were, in the opinion of much better judges than I, stronger probably than at any other time in their history.

This reflected a strong period in British Rugby, with the International Sides more evenly balanced than they have been in the last ten years (though there are signs of levelling now).

England were very strong at forward and full back; There was the great dash and energy of the Scots and Irish packs — with fast and clever backs from both the latter countries.

The Barbarians had on endearing habit; they would select, for their Easter tour, a quota of players who were not capped — some of whom indeed never were Internationals. Foolish indeed it was for the opposition then, to count the Barbarians' strength in the number of its Internationals — for one thing was certain, the Barbarians did not select those who were not of International standard.

The names of many of these players, considered as it were, "supernumerary to requirement" by their International selectors come to mind: there was one player the Barbarians could fairly claim to have presented to his National side — and what a player. He

continued overleaf

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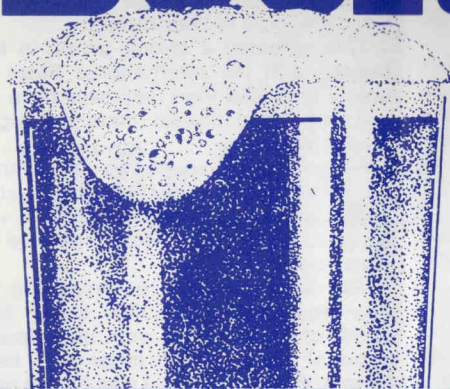
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was R. W. Shaw. True, he did not come into the category of "uncapped", but the Scots selectors had fiddled about with him on the centre and the wing; and it was the Barbarians who tried him at outside half — usually against Swansea. Scotland eventually took the hint — and thenceforward, up to the War, Shaw played in that position for Scotland.

Shaw was the most Welsh-seeming (of those who were not Welsh) of all outside-halves I have ever seen. He could run and pass beautifully and he could kick. Of those I have seen, I rate him among the six best in the last fifty years.

It was in one of his games against us on Easter Monday that there was a truly remarkable Barbarian try.

This was in 1933, and involved P. C. Minns, not a member of "The Fuzz", but a New Zealand wing at Oxford.

Having done extremely well to pull back to within a point or two of a couple of Barbarian first-half scores, we were, in the second half, passing strongly at a scrum on the Barbarians' line at the Mumbles end. The latter heeled, and there was one of those desperate moments when no-one has room to kick. The ball was passed in the hope that someone **would** have room — and came to Minns, who did. He did, but it was towering affair, infield. The ground was dry and hard; the ball in fact landed on the centre spot, with three Swansea players in attendance. Up the ball shot, vertically into the air, and up

went the Swansea players — a sort of exaggerated line-out effect. But — up also went Minns, who had followed his kick at great pace; and he leapt higher than anyone. He collected the ball, and shot away diagonally left, the only Barbarian. pursued by half the Swansea side. He reached the corner opposite the Pavilion — and still had time to run round behind the posts. Minns never became an "All Black".

Rugby it was, not nearly as good as our recent great try against Newport — Minns might have landed his side in trouble — but, in both, note the power of the unexpected.

And sad for Swansea — for whom our outside half Ronnie Morris seemed to play the Barbarians on his own in the second half — and who was cheered from the field by them at the end of the game.

The end of the game — and alas! Usually the end of the season — so, sad for me as well. Arid weeks, how long they seemed, lay ahead until cricket started. I was even forced to take an unhealthy interest in the F.A. Cup Final.

The Barbarians' song says "For the Rugby game, we do not train". It's rather like the successful student who says he did no work for the examination — you don't believe it, and you are right.

Over the years there are three sides I have always wanted to see us beat — Cardiff, Llanelli, and the Barbarians.

None of them should be ashamed to be in each other's company.

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Newbridge	31	16	3	12	56.45
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London Welsh	32	14	1	17	45.31
Neath	34	13	3	18	42.64
Glam Wanderers	29	11	1	17	39.65
Cross Keys	37	12	0	25	32.43
Penarth	28	7	1	20	26.78
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Newport	39	9	1	29	24.35
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FIRST XV FIXTURES 1979-80

SEPTEMBER

1—Cross Keys	H W	34—3
5—Brecon	A W	0—25
8—Moseley	A W	9—23
12—South Wales Police	A W	9—41
15—Bristol	H W	26—3
22—Newport	A W	13—17
26—Ebbw Vale	H W	18—3
29—Maesteg	H W	7—0

OCTOBER

6—Harlequins	A W	10—11
13—Llanelli	H W	18—17
17—Pontypridd	A L	15—10
20—Neath	A W	18—26
24—Bridgend	H W	21—10
27—Leicester	A W	12—27

NOVEMBER

3—Blackheath	H W	61—9
10—Llanelli	A W	6—7
17—WRU Cup 1st Rd. Pencoed	A W	0—40
24—Richmond	A W	6—35

DECEMBER

1—Cardiff	A L	21—15
8—Newbridge	H D	9—9
15—WRU Cup 2nd Rd. Glam.W.	H W	48—0
22—Abertillery	A	Cancelled
26—Glam. Wanderers	H W	32—10
27—London Welsh	H W	20—13
29—Welsh Academicals	H W	53—14

JANUARY

5—Aberavon	A W	9—21
12—WRU Cup 3rd Rd. Neath	W	3—15
19—Penarth	A W	7—29
Wales v France		
England v Ireland		
22—Newport	H W	38—9
26—Sale	H W	28—9

FEBRUARY

2—Bedford	A W	7—10
France v England Ireland v Scotland		
6—Abertillery	A W	12—26
9—Neath	H W	38—3
15—Gloucester	A W	9—12
16—England v Wales		
Scotland v France		
23—WRU Cup 4th Rd. Bedwas	W	3—28

MARCH

1—France v Ireland		
Wales v Scotland		
5—Bridgend	A L	13—8
8—Coventry	H W	25—12
14—S.Wales Police	H W	61—0
15—Ireland v Wales		
21—South Glam Dist.	H W	23—0
29—Newport	A W	23—13

APRIL

2—Cross Keys	A W	4—52
5—Harlequins	H W	48—9
7—Barbarians	H W	34—4
12—Cardiff	A	
16—Ebbw Vale	A	
19—Aberavon	H	
26—WRU Cup Final		

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES 1979-80

SEPTEMBER

1—Cwmavon	A W	21—12
5—Dunvant	A W	24—9
8—Morriston	H	
11—Neath Ath.	H L	6—15
15—Aberystwyth	A W	17—4
18—Swansea & District	H W	47—7
22—Newport Utd.	H W	32—18
26—Whitland	A W	21—6
29—Bridgend Sports	A L	3—23

OCTOBER

3—Bryncorch	H	
6—Lampeter	H W	10—6
13—Taffs Well	H	
15—Suburbs Auckland	H	
20—British Steel Corp	H W	14—8
27—Briton Ferry	H W	14—7
30—Mumbles	H	

NOVEMBER

3—University College	A	24—3
10—Llanelli Ath.	H	15—6
17—Lampeter	A	7—3
24—Pontypridd Ath.	H	31—3

DECEMBER

1—Cardiff Ath.	H	18—7
8—Penygraig	A	18—6
15—Briton Ferry	A	Cancelled
22—Pyle	A	Cancelled

JANUARY

5—Pontypridd Ath.	A W	6—15
12—Newport Utd.	A W	10—24
19—Pentyrch	A	Cancelled
26—		

FEBRUARY

2—Ebbw Vale Utd.	H	
9—Llanelli Ath.	A	
16—Uplands	A	
23—Penygraig	H	

MARCH

1—Old Penarthians	A	
8—Morriston	A	
15—Whitland	H	
22—Uplands	H	
26—Cwmavon	H	
29—Ebbw Vale Utd.	A	

APRIL

2—Dunvant	H	
5—Bonymaen	A	
7—Mumbles	A	
12—Cardiff Ath.	A	
15—Neath Ath.	A	
19—Bridgend Sports	H	
22—Bryncorch	A	

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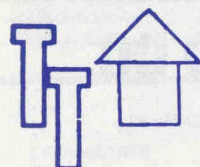
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Pic by courtesy of Evening Post

Mark Davies

Height 6' 1"; weight 13 stone 9 lbs.
Born Maesteg 1958. Attended
Maesteg Comprehensive School
where he first played Rugby.

At under 15 level he represented
Maesteg Schools, in the Dewar
Shield, at Centre.

On leaving school he joined Nan-
tyffyllon, from where he was invited
to join the All Whites at the start of

1978-79 season as a Wing Forward.

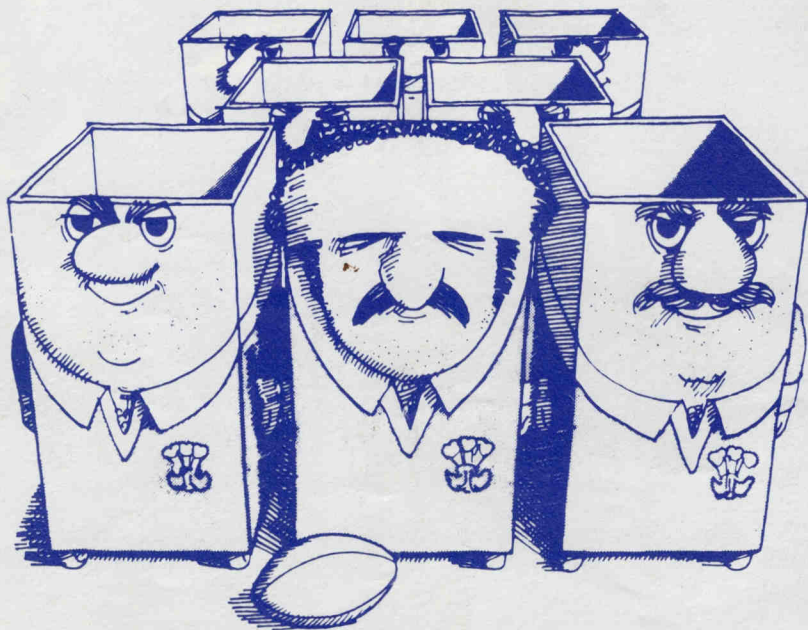
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