



Cardiff Rugby Club

Cardiff v Bath

SATURDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 1981

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 15p

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For the second successive Saturday we again entertain visitors from across the border and it gives us much pleasure this afternoon to extend to Bath a most hospitable welcome. Bath is well known as the golden city where an age of elegance lives on amidst a wealth of Georgian architecture in its elegant crescents of pale gold stone. All this combined with its internationally reputed Roman Baths where the Spa is of such marvellous therapeutic value, makes it one of the most fascinating cities in the country. To some of us less travelled mortals, however, who may have never seen the famous city it conjures up a scene of being a massive home-guard because Bath's record over the last decade against Welsh clubs has been rather amazing. Very few of them have returned home with a win under their belts after playing at the Recreation Ground. Indeed on our last two visits there we have been despatched with our tail between our legs and we have to go back to 1974 to see when we last won at Bath. Mind you on the converse side of the coin, Bath have suffered a worse fate because they have yet to record a victory over us at the Arms Park. In all we have played a total of 30 matches, 24 of which we have won, Bath 5 with one drawn game in 1926. During the sequence we have scored 427 points to their 192.

Last season Bath had what they termed a useful season winning 30 of their 48 games. Their performance in the South and South West Merit Table and the John Player Cup were rather disappointing though. They finished the season in a blaze of glory, however, in winning all their 7 club games during the month of April and amongst beaten opponents were Bristol, Newport, Llanelli and ourselves. If you remember we were still basking in the sunny glory of winning the Schweppes Cup and having inflicted the heaviest ever defeat on the Baa Baas. All was not over, however, and beginning with Bath away we suffered 3 heavy defeats to bring us back to earth in no uncertain manner. Obviously Bath would have very much liked to continue in the same vein this year but it has not transpired. Firstly they lost both their block busting wings to academic institutes. David Trick after touring the Argentine with England during last summer decided to accept a scholarship in America while Derek Wyatt at the ripe old age of 31 has gone up to Oxford to take a masters degree in science and, as a bonus, probably win a blue in the forthcoming 100th Varsity game in December. Things didn't stop there either because after many years of wonderful service to his club, Mike Beese decided to call it a day. His experience and class will be missed in their back line and he will be a hard man to replace. Then on top of all that comes a serious injury to inside half and captain Damian Murphy which could very well side line him for the season. Consequently results have been rather up and down this season and they have already lost to Welsh clubs Pontypool, Newport and Aberavon. On the credit side, however, they have had good wins over Moseley and then last Saturday over hitherto unbeaten Liverpool. This was quite a satisfying win as Bath were rather depleted due to calls to the County Championship games.

In speaking of that competition have you noticed what is happening in England these days. The administration appears to be very keen to get some form of competitive rugby going and have now plumbed for a County Championship of leagues with promotion and relegation. It works in its present form by playing for your county in specified regions and the winners of the various regions then do battle to determine the ultimate overall winners. Next year, however, a system involving leagues will come about. Depending on their positions this year in the regional or divisional competitions, counties will be placed in these leagues on merit regardless of geographical situation. This, of course, could see Devon or Cornwall playing Lancashire or Northumberland which could well involve quite a fair amount of expense and travelling. All the games are to be played on Saturdays so many top class players could well spend quite a considerable time when they are not available for their respective clubs due to county and country calls. It only goes to amplify how lucky we are here in Wales and our club set up must be the envy of the rugby playing world. Where else can so many good sides be found in such a comparatively small area. English players from next year

on then will look to county selection as a stepping stone to country representation. But back to today's guests, we hope they enjoy their visit this afternoon. Can they succeed where so many English clubs have failed. When was the last time we lost at home to visitors from across the border? It was way back in November 1974 when we lost to Oxford University by 8-21.

On the home front isn't it great to have broken the Bridgend at home bogey. It was an expensive victory, however, but by now we will know the fate of Ian Eidman and Ian Stevens. The Rags managed a good win in London last weekend by 17-7 against Quins Wanderers. The Youth drew with Pontypool Youth on 3rd October but last Saturday they lost to Rosslyn Park Youth by 11-30. This was the first home defeat for some 3 years and nobody can quite remember a higher score being put on the young Cardiffians so well done "The Park".

Now here's a nice little touch, Mr. D. Bellamy lost his season ticket at the Aberavon game on 26th September last. The following Tuesday it was returned by post to his home address by an anonymous samaritan. Mr. Bellamy is so delighted about it that he would like the sender to contact him at his home address 4 Garesfield Street, Adamsdown, so he can buy him a pint at some future game. (Aren't we a lovely lot).

Mr. C. R. G. Harries who has been a member for 37 years is a master statistician and he has given me some amazing facts and figures of Cardiff's involvement in the first hundred years of the Welsh Rugby Union. I will pass them on to you in the programme of the forthcoming Munster game.

Finally it's great to see John Scott's smiling face about the place again, get fit soon John, we missed you off the field and we are still missing you on it.

P.N.

KNOW THE LAWS

By FRED CROSTER

Well, the Wallabies are here. No club match with them, sadly, but they will be in Cardiff three times, the first against Wales 'B' on 31st October. They, of course, will be playing under this season's new law changes for the first time, as they were not implemented during their own season, just ended.

Our own Clive Norling, who controlled the epic win at last over Bridgend, has been appointed to take charge of their first match of the tour at Leicester today. Another deserved honour.

There is obvious concern regarding law interpretations. Equally obvious intentions to rectify the situation. Last Sunday, International Board representatives of the five nations met them to go over the complete official interpretations. There have been, as we know, some inconsistencies, hence this top level meeting instead of the previous practices when tourists discussed such things with referees.

The conclusions reached after Sunday's meeting will then be circulated to all the referees who will take charge of the Australian matches during the tour.

I understand there were two main points of contention 'concerning tackle and binding' despite all that has been said and written. You will be duly informed.

In our part of the world, players, referees and coaches seem, to me, to have sorted these out extremely well. I am sure you agree.

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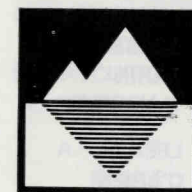
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5. K. EDWARDS
6. B. LEASE
8. R. LAKIN
7. O. GOLDING

T. LEE R
L. O'BRIEN

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



Replacements

Referee: D. M. DAVIES (W.R.U.)

Bath

- C. S. RALSTON 15. P
P. SIMMONS 14.
C. BIRD 13.
N. HUNT 12.
C. MARTIN 11.
J. P. HORTON 10.
C. STANLEY 9.
C. CHILCOTT 1.
P. KNIGHT 2.
R. LEE 3.
D. BARRY 4.
N. WILLIAMS 5.
C. PARSONS 6.
N. PATCHING 8.
R. SPURRELL 7.

A. JANES
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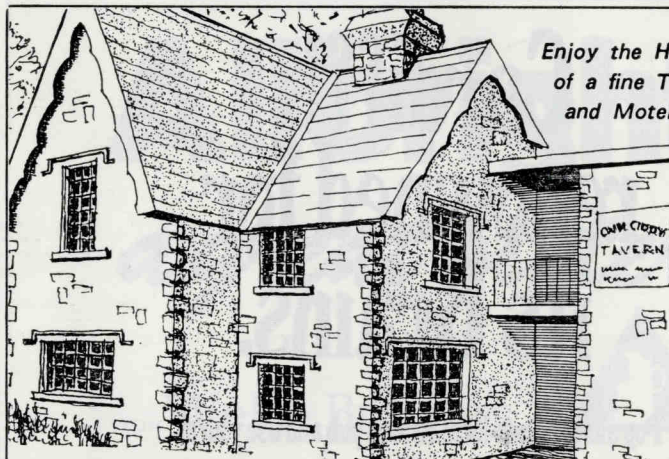
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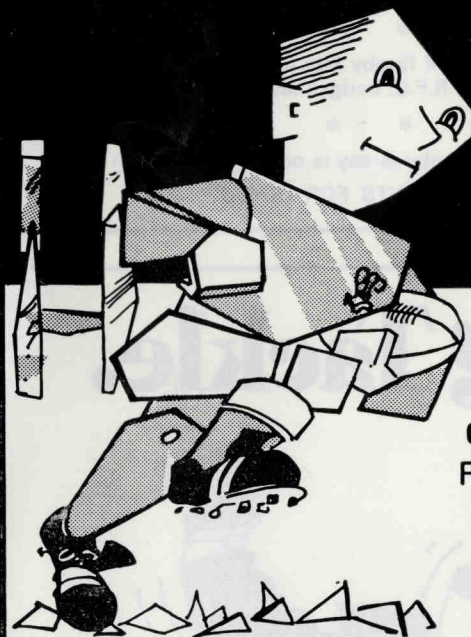
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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1981			
SEPTEMBER			
Wed. 2	Glam. Wanderers	A	9-3
Sat. 5	East District	H	40-6
Wed. 9	Bristol	H	37-17
Sat. 12	Neath	H	25-8
Wed. 16	Penarth	A	23-7
Sat. 19	Coventry	A	12-12
Sat. 26	Aberavon	H	11-25
Wed. 30	Pontypridd	A	10-3
OCTOBER			
Sat. 3	Newport	A	15-6
Wed. 7	Bridgend	H	18-14
Sat. 10	Northampton	H	26-22
Wed. 14	Pontypool	A	15-24
Sat. 17	Bath	H	.....
Wed. 21	Newbridge	A	.....
Sat. 24	Harlequins	A	.....
Tues. 27	Maesteg	A	.....
Sat. 31	Moseley	A	.....
NOVEMBER			
Sat. 7	Munster	H	.....
Wed. 11	Oxford University	H	.....
Sat. 14	Ebbw Vale	H	.....
Sat. 21	W.R.U. Cup 1st Round	A	.....
Fri. 27	Llanelli	A	.....
DECEMBER			
Wed. 9	Swansea	H	.....
Sat. 12	London Welsh	H	.....

Sat. 19	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round	H	.....
Sat. 26	Pontypridd	H	.....
Mon. 28	Bridgend	A	.....
1982			
JANUARY			
Sat. 2	Moseley	H	.....
Wed. 6	Aberavon	A	.....
Fri. 15	Bective Rangers	A	.....
Sat. 23	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	H	.....
Sat. 30	Llanelli	H	.....
FEBRUARY			
Sat. 13	Bristol	A	.....
Sat. 20	Ebbw Vale	A	.....
Sat. 27	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	A	.....
MARCH			
Sat. 6	London Welsh	A	.....
Sat. 13	Pontypool	H	.....
Fri. 19	Heriots F.P.	H	.....
Sat. 27	Newport (Cup S.F.)	H	.....
Wed. 31	Swansea	A	.....
APRIL			
Sat. 3	Bedford	A	.....
Sat. 10	Barbarians	H
Mon. 12	Harlequins	H
Sat. 17	Neath	A
Sat. 24	W.R.U. Cup Final	A

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