

Cardiff Rugby Club



Cardiff v. Coventry

SATURDAY, 31st DECEMBER, 1983

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 20p



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Here we are then at the half-way mark of the season and 1983 in its death throes. There can be very few better ways to see an old year out and a new year in than a visit from our great English friends, Coventry. After having to travel to Bridgend last Saturday, Christmas Eve, we are very happy indeed to be playing home today. It brings "Cov" to Cardiff for their 53rd visit since the series began in 1891. We have made the reciprocal journey to the Midlands on 47 occasions — so, hello, hello, hello — what does 53 and 47 add up to? Your dead right, 100. Of the 99 games already written into the record books, we have won 63 to Coventry's 29, with the remaining 7 drawn. In total we have scored 1,491 points to Coventry's 849.

Over those 99 games, some epic battles have ensued and the Coventry club has made a tremendous contribution to the cause of English Rugby. Many is the Coventry player who has graced the field in an English jersey such as present day match secretary Harry Walker, who hopefully will be here today. But of all the Coventry players we have seen the one the Welsh really took to their hearts was their most capped player David Duckham who earned 36 caps for his country and toured with the great 1971 Lions. In fact he was affectionately known as Dai Duckham in Wales and was always assured of a great welcome on any ground on which he played in the Principality.

Looking at the statistics a little closer shows that Coventry's last win in Cardiff was way back in 1972. Strangely enough, that victory was achieved by a rather controversial score by no other than the aforementioned, Dai Duckham. It was the eighth victory they have achieved at the Arms Park in their overall total of 29 wins. Last year, they came very close to making it nine when in a final onslaught they came away with a 25-25 draw. That game from our point of view, however, was more memorable for its very late start after our visitors were bedevilled on their journey down due to a bus which finally gave up the ghost. That was the day you will well remember when St. Albans Band played on and on. It took some of them weeks to get their breath back after such a mammoth blow.

As it happened, however, last season was one of the best that the Midland side have had for over a decade. They won 36 of the 47 games played, lost eight and drew the remaining three. They amassed a total of 1,066 points to reach over four figures for only the fourth time in their history. They also got to the semi-final of the John Player Cup, but lost to eventual winners Bristol.

Things have not continued in the same fashion this season however. Steve Thomas was appointed captain again but injury has laid him low and flanker Malik has taken over the reins. Injuries have continued to dog them and there has also been a bit of an exodus from Coundon Road. Full back Marcus Rose and outside half Huw Davies have left for pastures new and all this has accumulated in rather decimating the successful side of last season. They are still keeping their heads above water and have won more games than they have lost. Included in their wins are those against pretty useful sides like Bath, London Welsh and Newport. On the credit side, their ageless full back Peter Rossborough is performing well for them after appearing for their Extras side against the Athletic on the Arms Park earlier on this season. He has been a great stalwart of the club and last year he recorded his 2,000th point for "Cov" which included 100 tries.

As you probably well know we have already won at Coventry this year in September by 27-16 so they will be keen to reap revenge, and also have a crack at our ground record. So we wish them no further ill luck, and welcome them again to Cardiff for this our 100th game. Let's hope our association over the next 100 will be as pleasant.

With the fading of 1983, what will 1984 hold in store for us? At this half-way stage things are looking pretty good when we have been unable to call on the massive combined talents of Terry Holmes, Bob Norster and Rhodri Lewis. That's a treble that would grace any club side in the world so who knows what things could have been had that dynamic trio been available. Coaches Roger Beard and Gary

Samuel have worked the players hard, however, and our sights must now be set fairly and squarely on getting the Schweppes Cup back in our trophy room. The next stage of that battle should be quite an epic too. The broad smile emitted by Chairman Tony Williams when our name was first out of the bag summed it all up. Then did I notice a frown of anguish cross the brow of the Swansea Chairman as his club came out as our opponents. It's the one draw they were probably dreading as to say that Cardiff is a bit of a bogey ground for the All Whites is rather an understatement. However, only our best will suffice on the day so let's hope we can produce it. Incidentally, don't forget that the cup date has been changed from that printed on the fixture lists. The game at Aberavon will be played on 14th January, with the cup being fought out on the 28th (that's the good news, but don't forget the bad news, cup games are all pay).

The Rags have had a bit of a rest, not having played since December 17th, but they will be on their travels today to play their Coventry counterparts. A very likely looking addition to the side of late is young Paul Aden. He is a product of Llanishen High School and played in the highly successful Senior Welsh School side which achieved the grand slam last season. Paul's style has been likened to Wayne Lewis who played for us in the early 1970's. The Youth are also going well and are now in the semi-final of the W.Y.R.U. Cup.

Now here's a challenge to any club anywhere. If they can raise a choir from their membership like that of the Cardiff Athletic Male Voice I will eat my hat. Our choir, under musical director Bill Cooper, gave a short performance during the Christmas Prize Draw evening and it was really first class entertainment. To think that the choir is made up from our own membership is a great credit to Bill and every man jack of them. Well done lads.

With but hours of 1983 left the committee and players of Cardiff R.F.C. would like to wish all its members and supporters a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Finally we would like to thank Howells Motors Ltd. for their generous sponsorship of today's game. May their directors and guests enjoy the game and the day.

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KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

Question 1 — At the start of the match, the kick-off goes *directly* into the corner post. What is the correct decision?

Answer — Law 10(3) states that if the ball pitches directly into touch, touch in goal or over or on the dead ball line, the opposing team may (1) accept the kick, or (2) have the ball kicked off again, or (3) have a scrummage formed at the centre. *The corner posts are in touch-in-goal.* The same law applies if, for example, at a kick off, Gareth Davies kicks the ball directly over the opposing dead ball line, i.e. without the ball first bouncing in the field of play.

Question 2 — Under what circumstances, and where, may a "kick-or-kick" decision be awarded?

Answer — (1) Obstruction or late tackle on a kicker.
(2) Foul play in the in-goal area but not when the ball is dead.

Question 3 — A defending player kicks the ball into an attacker who makes no attempt to play it. It rebounds into the in-goal area where it is touched down by a defender. What is the correct decision:—

- (a) if the kicker was in the field of play;
- (b) if he was in in-goal after the attacking side put the ball there;
- (c) if he was in-goal after a defender put it there.

Answer —

- (a) Drop-out at the 22 metre line;
- (b) Drop out at the 22 metre line;
- (c) "Scrum 5" opposite the point where the ball crossed the line for the first time, or on its way into in-goal.

Rugby Quiz – No. 13

- 1). Have Coventry ever won the John Player Cup?
- 2). Have Coventry ever appeared in any other John Player Cup as losing finalists?
- 3). Who is England's most capped three-quarter?
- 4). How were his 36 caps made up?
- 5). What is Coventry's highest ever score against Cardiff?

RUGBY QUIZ No. 13 — ANSWERS

1). Yes, 1973 beat Bristol 27-15 and 1974 beat London Scottish 26-6. 2). No. 3). David Duckham, 36 caps. 4). 14 times centre and 22 as wing. 5). Strangely enough it occurred last season when they achieved a 25-25 draw on the Arms Park.

Don't forget the

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20th JANUARY, 1984



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3. C. COLLINS
4. R. NORSTER
5. T. WOODROW
6. T. CROTHERS
8. J. SCOTT (Captain)
7. R. LAKIN
16. G. EVANS
17. J. SOUTO

Referee: K. PARFITT

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



Replacements

Coventry

15. P. ROSSBROUGH
14. M. SUMMERS
13. R. MASSEY
12. J. COOKE
11. A.N. OTHER
10. M. LAKEY
9. P. LANDER
1. L. JOHNSON
2. S. BRAIN
3. S. WILKES
4. R. FARDOE
5. B. KIDNET
6. M. MALIK (Captain)
8. R. TRAVERS
7. P. THOMAS

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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1983 SEPTEMBER

Thurs. 1	Abertillery	A	3-9
Sat. 3	East District	H	56-4
Mon. 5	Glasgow & District	H	34-9
Wed. 7	Glamorgan Wands.	A	19-10
Sat. 10	Neath	H	16-14
Wed. 14	Bristol	H	22-13
Sat. 17	Coventry	A	27-16
Wed. 21	Gloucester	A	26-10
Sat. 24	Aberavon	H	37-17
Wed. 28	Pontypridd	A	12-4

OCTOBER

Sat. 1	Newport	A	21-32
Wed. 5	Bridgend	H	9-7
Sat. 8	Northampton	H	13-7
Wed. 12	Penarth	A	22-6
Sat. 15	Cambridge Univ.	H	24-18
Wed. 19	Pontypool	A	10-9
Sat. 22	Harlequins	A	26-7
Wed. 26	Maesteg	H	26-26
Sat. 29	Moseley	H	43-10

NOVEMBER

Sat. 5	Leicester	A	24-29
Wed. 9	Oxford	H	47-25
Sat. 12	Ebbw Vale	H	31-16
Sat. 19	Senghennydd (Cup)	A	43-3
Sat. 26	Llanelli	A	13-14

DECEMBER

Sat. 3	Swansea	H	26-13
Sat. 10	London Welsh	H	43-20

Sat. 17	Treorchy (Cup)	A	31-4
Sat. 24	Bridgend	A	10-34
Mon. 26	Pontypridd	H	21-14
Sat. 31	Coventry	H	.....

1984 JANUARY

Mon. 2	Bath	H	.....
Sat. 7	Moseley	A	.....
Sat. 14	Aberavon	A	.....
Sat. 28	Swansea (Cup)	H	.....

FEBRUARY

Wed. 1	S. Glamorgan Inst.	H	.....
Sat. 11	Bristol	A	.....
Wed. 15	Newbridge	H	.....
Sat. 25	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round		

MARCH

Sat. 3	Ebbw Vale	A	.....
Sat. 10	Pontypool	H	.....
Sat. 17	London Welsh	A	.....
Sat. 24	Newport	H	.....
Sat. 31	Llanelli	H	.....

APRIL

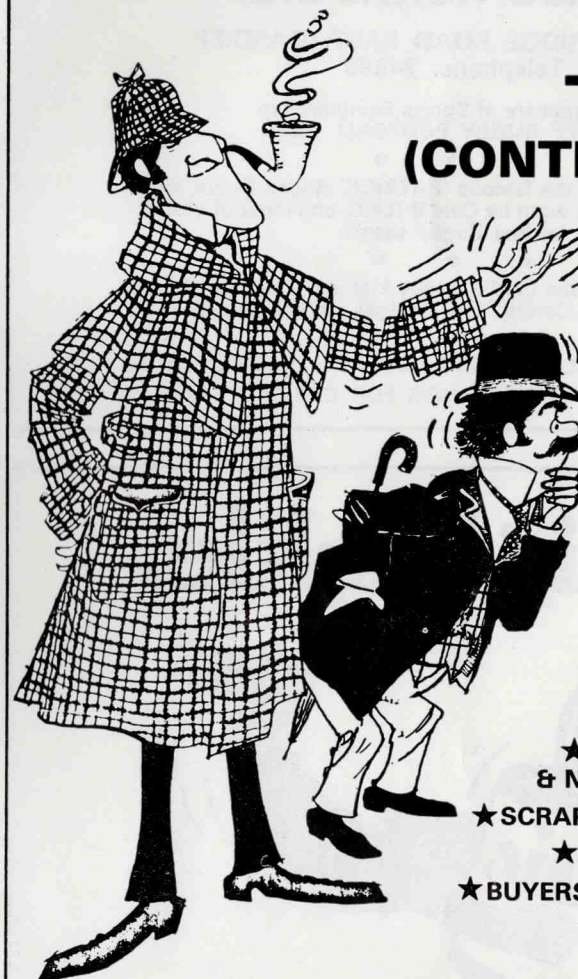
Sat. 7	Bedford	H	.....
Sat. 7	Gala Cent. Sevens	A	.....
Sat. 14	Swansea	A
Sat. 21	Barbarians	H
Mon. 23	Harlequins	H
Fri. 27	Neath	A
Sat. 28	W.R.U. Cup Final		

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