

# PEOPLE WHO KNOW BEER HAVE BRAINS



BRAINS
THE BEER WITH A HANDLE TO ITS NAME
SA BITTER RD



## **Cardiff v. Coventry**

SATURDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER, 1984 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

I'm sure East District would not feel offended if I referred to the fact that today is our first home Saturday of the season when we entertain first class opponents. So this afternoon it gives us much pleasure to welcome the great Coventry club who also become our first English visitors of the season. The occasion also serves to begin the second century of games between our clubs. As you may well remember last December's game on the Arms Park was the 100th between us since fixtures began way way back in November 1891. Of those 100 games, we have won 64 to Coventry's 29 with the remaining 7 ending even. We have chalked up 1,537 points to Coventry's 859.

Of those 100 games, Coventry have made the trip south on 53 occasions and we have journeyed to the Midlands on the other 47. The 29 wins Coventry have enjoyed have, in the main, been achieved on their own patch and can only claim victory in Cardiff on 8 occasions. The last of these was in 1972 and we will magnanimously refrain from passing any more comment on that win. The other seven were achieved in 1968, 1956, 1950, 1935, 1933, 1931 and the first ever came on Boxing Day 1925. Drawn games are few and far between and of the seven record two of them have been in Cardiff in 1958 when we shared 26 points and then two years ago in 1982 when the game ended up at 25 points apiece. (Perhaps I should have said when that game finally ended because if you cast your minds back it was the day of the big blow as far as St. Albans' Band was concerned as the pre match entertainment stint was greatly extended due to the breakdown of the Coventry coach). Another nightmare recollection for Coventry is the fact they are only the narrowest of possible margins of one point away from Cardiff's highest ever score. That dubious record belongs to Maesteg who we beat 77-9 in 1973. We nearly topped that score on the Arms Park in September 1978 when we beat Coventry 76-9. We got 15 tries that day but only 7 were converted to leave Maesteg holding a record they probably would have been only too pleased to hand over to

What of this season for the Midlanders then. Well things haven't started too encouragingly. Today sees them on their second trip to Wales already, as they paid a visit to our Black and Amber friends at Rodney Parade last Saturday, the first day of the season. They went down to the tune of 28 points to 12 which further extended the number of defeats they have suffered in Wales. Indeed, victory for the Midlanders when they cross the border is as bare on their record as was Lady Godiva in her notorious ride through their famous city in 1043. Last Saturday, further weight was added to the debit side of this season's record when they lost at home to visitors Gloucester by 10-6.

All this must be a bit of a disappointment to them if they were hoping to pick up the threads of the end of last season which they finished in great style. After getting over the worst injury situation in post war years, they managed to pull themselves together and reached the quarter final of The John Player Cup only to be eliminated by The Harlequins. They stuck to their guns however and finished the season in style by winning eight of their last nine games. During that time their purposeful forward play was never quite matched by the backs who appeared to lack penetration. Their powerful flanker Mal Malik played in all 41 games during the season which was a remarkable feat. He was ably supported by Steve Brain and Lee Johnson, a prop who was leading joint try scorer with eight. So our Midland visitors cannot exactly be described as riding the crest of a wave at the moment. What better shot in the arm could Coventry have then, than their ninth win in Cardiff and no doubt their captain, Mal Malik will be exulting his players to do just that. To Coventry then, once more welcome to Cardiff yet again for your 54th visit, we hope you enjoy your day.

After the result of the Neath game last Saturday at least we have unshackled the bonds on invincibility once again for another season. I suppose we would be less than honest to say any other than we expected a victory, no matter how small, but then

again, how many teams are going to take the spoils away from the Knoll this year, not many I would suggest. Again, it was very ironical that although we scored two tries to one, the almighty hoot settled the issue as it had done to our advantage in the cup final. Thats the ups and downs of Welsh rugby however and long may it be. Look at some of those Schweppes Cup results last Saturday too. After seeing how creditably Glamorgan Wanderers performed against us, who would have expected them to go down to Barry. Down they went however and now Terry Charles and his Rags side look forward to visiting Barry next Monday evening for a game addional to those shown on your fixture list. I'm sure the jubilant Barry Rags would like to add the Rags to their victim list after that tremendous result against the Wanderers.

The Rags had a good 50-16 win on the Park in a 12 try match last Saturday. This perhaps slightly compensated for an earlier mid week defeat at the hands of Glamorgan Wanderers seconds. Nevertheless, this was also a very entertaining game and full marks to the Wanderers for beating such a strong Rags side on the night. Due to the large number of applicants wishing to join the club an extra game was also arranged last Monday when the Rags won at Pontyclun 18-0. The policy seems to be paying off because from it all Mike Carrington of Pyle with his powerful play on the right wing earned himself a place in the first team in last Wednesdays away game at Bristol which was just reward for his four tries for the Rags against Bath United.

Injuries are now starting to become a problem and I hope to give you an up-date on that situation in the Penarth programme next Wednesday.

Finally I bet the band will be relieved to see that Coventry lads arrive in good time for a 3 o'clock kick off

P.N.



#### **KNOW THE LAWS**

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

#### THE UNUSUAL INCIDENTS

A. QUESTION: At a penalty kick at goal a defending player jumps up and deliberately knocks the ball forward in order to prevent the ball crossing the bar for a goal. Is that a deliberate knock-on or a charge down?

**ANSWER:** As stated in the question **the player's intention** was to prevent a goal being scored. To do this he appears intentionally to have charged down the kick and not intentionally to have knocked-on.

This conforms to the situation set our in Law 17 (2), and the knock-on in these circumstances should be ruled unintentional.

**DECISION: Scrum at place of infringement.** 

B. QUESTION: The ball pitches directly into touch from a kick-off and the opposing team elects th accept the kick. Where shall the line-out be formed?

ANSWER: (1) At the half-way line, or

(2) Where the ball went into touch if that place be nearer to the kicker's goal line.

**C. QUESTION:** The ball pitches directly into touch **from a drop out** and the opposing team elects to accept the kick. Where shall the line-out be formed?

ANSWER: The line out shall be formed where the ball went into touch.

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## Rugby Quiz - No. 3

- How many times did the following players captain Wales:
   — Gareth Edwards,
   Gerald Davies and Cliff Morgan?
- Adrian Hadley is our latest Welsh cap. How many previous players have been capped by Wales whilst playing for Cardiff?
- 3. What was Cardiff's best post War season?
- 4. Who were the captain and vice-captain in that season?
- 5. When did Wilf Wooler play his last official game for Cardiff?
  - December 1st, 1945 v. Richmond/Blackheath away. Cardiff won 16-9.
    - Haydn Tanner and Bleddyn Williams.
    - 3. 1947-48 41 games played, 39 won, 2 lost.
      - 2. 163
    - Gareth Edwards 13, Gerald Davies 1, Cliff Morgan 4.

Rugby Quiz No. 3 - Answers

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Fri. 12	Referees' Fo	orum
November		
Fri. 9	Horse Race	Night
Fri. 30	Annual Din	ner
December		
Fri 7	Quiz Night	at Aberamai

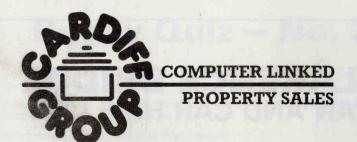
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P<10. W. G. DAVIES

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1. J. WHITEFOOT

2. A. J. PHILLIPS

3. I. EIDMAN

4. K. EDWARDS

5. A. MOGRIDGE

6. O. GOLDING

8. J. SCOTT

7. G. ROBERTS

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## QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

#### MAJID CAN - AND DOES

As the Boeing 747 on which the Cardiff team were travelling on the flight to their summer tour in Thailand began its approach into Karachi for a short stopover, there was much amused speculation among the tour party as to whether Majid would alight and remain there for the next week or two.

Majid did not leave the plane but stayed on the long and wearying flight to Bangkok where the party duly tumbled blearily into bed at about 2 a.m. Notwithstanding the exhausting flight and the late hour of arrival, Majid - alias Gareth Davies - was up at

6.30, just a few hours later, to play golf.

"He's that sort of guy," says one of his close friends, "and he's that sort of golfer. "But, you know, three or four years ago if everyone on the touring party wanted to go for a swim, Gareth would wallow about. We used to tease him the whole time. Now, and I'll tell you it could only have been the result of practice, he has become an aboveaverage swimmer."

Majid seems to be above-average in everything he does. Although it is not clear whether his nickname stems from the fact that he does look perhaps a shade (if that is the correct word) like Majid Khan the cricketer, he certainly has talents in that direction.

Not everyone knows that he took two wickets for 12 runs on his debut for Glamorgan Seconds against Nottinghamshire at Barry in June 1979. And yet this writer would think that a wicket he took this summer might have given him even greater pleasure.

Gareth Davies was playing one hot Sunday afternoon in July for the Lords Taverners against a team from Hoovers at Merthyr Tydfil. Opening the batting for the Opposition was one Malcolm Dacey, current imcumbent of the No. 10 shirt in the Welsh side. And yes, Gareth got him - though Malcolm D. disputes this to the present moment. "Only the umpire and Gareth felt I was actually out," he complains.

Closer investigation, though, reveals that Malcolm Dacey's wrath - if that is what it is - is really compounded by the fact that Gareth himself was caught out by Malcolm's boss at the OCS Group, ex-soccer referee Clive Thomas, who also scored one more run

than he did. The referee does not let him forget it.

I digress. But Gareth Davies is above average, well above. He was educated at Gwendraeth Grammer School, the very same that turned out Barry John. (And nor is that the only similarity with BJ: not every Cardiff fan would be able to tell you that Gareth Davies also played for Llanelli in his early days). His above average performance in all things is also shown by the fact that he was eductated at UWIST and at Oxford University.

More interesting, perhaps, to the rugby fan, is the fact that he was the first man to captain Cardiff from the No. 10 position for many years. That's something that Barry

John never did: nor Cliff Morgan. Nor even Billy Cleaver.

For you veterans, the last time was in fact in season 1933-34 when Roy Gabe-Jones took over in Mid-season. And for those fortunate enough to know the splendid man, the last outside-half to be elected captain before Gareth Davies, was the inimitable Harry Bowcott in 1932-33. But he moved to London before he took over the side.

Gareth Davies played first for Cardiff against Penarth in November 1974 when he was only six weeks past his 18th birthday and has been one of the most consistent of

players since.

"It's remarkable," says another colleague, "Gareth seems to play more and to play better as he gets older. This season, for example, he seems to have so much zest for the game that he has even got himself involved in the Sevens tournaments."

continued over page . . . .

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#### QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN continued

No doubt his version of Winnie the Pooh — a totally decent version at that — went down well as he made it in his immaculate fashion. Immaculate and, indeed, fashion comes to mind as you think about Gareth Davies. He always looks impeccable on or off the pitch without any apparent emulation of Barry John — though he shares a love of golf with the other out-half: and Malcolm Dacey, too, plays cricket and golf to a reasonable standard.

Gareth's frequent and redoubtable opponent is the ground manager and raconteur Albert Francis: and, even though Albert won't admit it, it's only on the golf course that Gareth appears to become rattled.

"He can miss a penalty," says a team-mate, "and recover to play even better. But speak to him when he misses a putt . . . ."

The same colleague passes humorous judgement on Gareth's kicking. "He leans over backwards so far on occasions as he kicks at goal that it's almost as if he's going to stand back to admire his work

"It's a good job he isn't a window cleaner."

Gareth Davies, arguably the most able tactical kicker and line-linker in Wales despite being currently out of favour with the selectors, remains unperturbed, certainly superficially, about his lack of recognition.

He seems to gain much reassurance from his partnership with Terry Holmes, not just on the field but off it. Their wives, Helen and Susan, are close friends. And the half-back pair can frequently be seen together.

Indeed, club officials are said to have tried to break up the partnership off the pitch by separating them on tour and making them share bedrooms with different players.

"It did not do any good," says a team mate laconically. "Club policy may be to split them up but they were invariably in each other's rooms in Thailand."

The ramifications of which do not augur well for Cardiff's opponents this season.

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### Cardiff Rugby Club 1984-85

#### **FIRST XV FIXTURES**

1984 SEPTEMBER		Sat. 8 Sat. 22	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round Bridgend	Н
Sat. 1 East District	H 54-6	Wed. 26	Pontypridd	H
Wed. 5 Glam. Wanderers	H34-6	Sat. 29	Coventry	A
Sat. 8 Neath	A 12-13		Coventry	,
Wed 12 Bristol	A 30-26	1985		
	H	JANUARY		
		Tues. 1	Crawshays XV	H
Wed. 19 Penarth	H	Sat. 5	Moseley	H
Sat. 22 Aberavon	A	Sat. 12	Aberavon	H
Wed. 26 Pontypridd	A	Sat. 26	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round	
Sat. 29 Garryowen	A	FED. 014.014		
		FEBRUARY		
OCTOBER		Sat. 2	Ebbw Vale	H
Sat. 6 Newport	H	Sat. 9	Bristol	H
Wed. 10 Bridgend	A	Fri. 15	London Welsh	H
Sat. 13 Northampton	A	Sat. 23	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	
Wed. 17 Pontypool	Н	Wed. 27	S. Glamorgan Inst.	H
Sat. 20 Cambridge Univ.	A	MARCH		
Wed. 24 Australia (all pay)	H	Sat. 9	Pontypool	A
Sat. 27 Harlequins	H	Fri. 15	Bective Rangers	H
Wed. 31 Newbridge	A	Wed. 20		H
			Maesteg (prov.)	
NOVEMBER		Sat. 23	Newport	A
Sat. 3 Leicester	H	Sat. 30	Llanelli	Α
Wed. 7 Oxford University	H	APRIL		
Sat. 10 Ebbw Vale	Α	Sat. 6	Barbarians	H
Sat. 17 W.R.U. Cup 1st Round		Wed. 10	S. Wales Police	H
Wed. 28 Llanelli	Н	Sat. 13	Swansea	H
vveu. 20 Liaileiii		Sat. 20	Neath	H
DECEMBER		Wed. 24	Bath	A
Sat. 1 Swansea	Α	Sat. 27	W.R.U. Cup Final	
Sat. 1 Swallsea	A	Jul. 27	vv.it.o. oup i mai	

#### **ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES**

1984 SEPTEMBER			Sat. Sat.	15 22	Garndiffaith Bridgend Sports	H
Sat. 1	Llanharan	A 46-10	Sat.	29	Coventry Extras	H
Wed. 5	Glam. Wanderers II	A 22-25				
Sat. 8	Bath United	H50-16	1985			
Mon. 10	Pontyclun	A 18-0	JANU			
Wed. 12	Bristol United	H25-9	Sat.	5	Moseley United	A
Sat. 15	Coventry Extras	Α	Sat.	12	Llandaff	Α
Mon. 17	Barry	Α	Sat.	26	Neath Athletic	A
Wed. 19	Caerleon	A				
Wed. 26	Pontypridd Athletic	Н	FEBR	UARY		
Sat. 29	Neath Athletic	H	Sat.	2	Ebbw Vale Athletic	A
OCTOBER			Wed.		Pontypridd Athletic	Α
Wed. 3	Cardiff HSOB	Н	Sat.	9	Bristol United	Α
Sat. 6	Newport	A				
Wed. 10	Pontypridd United	H	MAR		B 41 11 22 4	
Wed. 17	Pontypool Athletic	A	Sat.	2	Bath United	A
Sat 20	Blackwood	Н	Wed.		Pontypool United	A
Wed 31	Newport Saracens	Н	Sat.	9	Pontypool Athletic Blackwood	A
		The state of the state of	Fri.	15		H
NOVEMBER			Wed.	20	Abercynon Newport United	Н
Sat. 3	Leicester Extras	A	Sat. Sat.	30	Bridgend Sports	Н
Sat. 10	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H	Sat.	30	Bridgeria Sports	
Sat. 17	St. Peters	A	APRII			
DECEMBER			Sat.	13	Swansea Athletic	Α
Sat. 1	Swansea Athletic	H	Wed.		Llangennech	Α
Sat. 8	Caerleon	H	Sat.	20	Talywain	Α
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