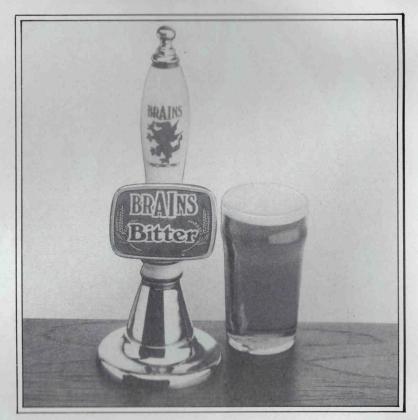


PEOPLE WHO KNOW BEER HAVE BRAINS



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SA BITTER RD



Cardiff v. Neath

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1985 KICK OFF 3 p.m.

"Dear Sir," so read a letter to the editor in last Saturday's Western Mail, "Obviously God does not agree also with the Welsh selectors back row. He has now given them two opportunities to change their minds." Well all I can say about that is that I hope the good Lord casts his seal of approval on the selection of the teams for today by the 'Wise Men' of Cardiff and Neath and that He graces us with conditions in which the game can be played. it is unthinkable and mind boggling to even contemplate anything to the contrary. The number of rugby supporters wandering around these days with obvious withdrawl symptoms will soon reach epidemic proportions and will only be cured by a large dose of rugby.

Well, providing the weather does relent there certainly won't be any shortage of the particular cure over the next several weeks. Take our own example for instance of our own players who are involved in the National side. After today on up to Murrayfield for the Scotland game, the following week we travel to Pontypool followed by the Irish match in Cardiff on March 16th. The following Saturday, depending on today's result, we will be either in the semi-final of the Cup or away to Newport. This will be followed by the re-arranged France v. Wales game on March 30th and the Saturday after will be our showpiece fixture against The Baabaas. The next Saturday sees the visit of Swansea to the Arms Park and then comes the now re-arranged game against England on April 27th which incidentally is the day we should be playing Neath at home. Thrown in, of course, we have a few mid-week games against the likes of South Glamorgan Institute, Bective Rangers, Maesteg and the South Wales Police. Added to all that we will be looking for dates for the postponed games with Bristol and Llanelli and also a new date for the next visit of Neath. So to the people of the spectator brigade the cure material will be in no short supply for you to avail yourselves of.

Anyway, back to today and to Neath we offer a special welcome for a game that the only certain outcome is the fact that this year's final will not be a repeat of that of last season. On that day, of course, the battle was fought out in tropical conditions but let's hope today's game will be as exciting and provide the great spectator appeal of what has been regarded as the best final for many a year.

Back to today however, the most pleasing feature of the tie is the fact that after being drawn away in six of the last seven over the past two years, Lady Luck has smiled on us again in the shape of home advantage. It is a very healthy commodity in this the fourth round as the semi's are played on neutral grounds. Our own path to this round has been at the expense of Tonyrefail, Bryncoch and Newbridge. All away. Both the former as so called smaller clubs put up a tremendous struggle on their own patches. Indeed it was well into the last quarter of the game at Bryncoch that Cardiff hearts finally began to beat with a regularity that can be described as normal.

Neath for their part were favoured with all three games at home against Colwyn Bay, Heol-y-Coch and Llanharan and the odds must have been well against them to make it four, that was our luck, however. Like ourselves they haven't been too active of late at a time when most players are at just about peak fitness in terms of match play. They also managed a game during the first freeze-up when they were just pipped at Moseley for only their fifth defeat in 35 outings this season. They bounced back strongly in a good home defeat over Swansea by 19-12 to put them in good stead for the Cup.

In fact the Neath bandwagon is rolling along very smoothly indeed and they are brimful of confidence. Their new found full back Paul Thorburn grows in reputation with each game and is their top scorer with well over 300 points at the moment. This total has already passed the club record held by his predecessor Neale Harris who last season recorded 299 points. Added to this are the likes of Johnathan Davies at outside half, David Jacobs in the centre, either of Carl Gnojek or Gareth Jones at scrum half and the very experienced elder statesman and captain Elgin Rees on the wing it's no wonder they like to run the ball. Their forwards too, although not giant sized are extremely mobile with nothing much faster around the field than flanker Hugh Jones.

For our own part it is also pleasing to be back at just about full strength. This, of course, includes David Waters' nightmare Bob Norster. Bob will be full of sympathy for David but I'm sure he will be full out to retain his place next Saturday at Murrayfield against Scotland.

Today's game will be the third we have played against the All Blacks in the Cup. Besides last years final, they beat us in the inaugural year 1972, 16-9 at Bridgend in the semi-final. They then beat Llanelli in the final to become the first holders of the trophy as we know it today. Our overall record against Neath reads: played 176, won 106, lost 53, drawn 17, points for 1855 and against 1101.

Another interesting cup statistic shows that prior to today there have been 81 cup rounds since season 1971-72. Of these we have participated in 65 of them 55 of which we have won and lost 10 scoring 1595 points to 511 against.

To Neath then again welcome and let's hope we see a game as good as last year's final.

P.N.



KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

CHANGES FOR THE BETTER!

The Welsh Rugby Union will urge a change in the Tackle Law when the International Board meets in Paris in March. They advocate change in order to increase the flow of the game and in order to minimise still further the dangerous pileup situation.

Under Law 19, a player must release the ball immediately without playing it in any other way once a tackle has been made.

But the WRU, its coaches and referees are pressing for the combining of Laws 18 (The Tackle Law) and 19 (Lying with, in, or near the ball). They want changes to allow the tackled player to pass the ball immediately. This will make the game flow, it will keep players more on their feet and will improve continuity in the game.

The WRU are asking for a relaxation in the tackle law so that the tackled player should be allowed to pass the ball regardless of being on the floor — as long as that is done immediately with no hesitation, no delay.

At present, the law states that the ball has to be placed on the ground; you cannot pass the ball even if you only have one knee on the ground. It means that the ball is kept in close proximity to the tackled player and that encourages the pile-up situations. It also stops flow and continuity. Coaches, players and referees are very unhappy with the present law.

It is interesting to note that the English Rugby Union are also proposing changes to Law 19. On lying with, on or near the ball, they are proposing that a penalty be awarded immediately against any player wilfully falling on or over a player on the ground. This is already covered in the existing law but referees, in general, have not been strict enough in applying the law to the detriment of the game.

The **English Rugby Union** working party on injuries **are also proposing a change to the scrummage law.** They are suggesting that "the shoulders of all players in the scrummage must not be lower than their hips."

If this improves safety - then it can only be for the good of the game.

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Rugby Quiz – No. 13

Let us concentrate on the Cup this week

- 1. There are only seven winners shields on the Schweppes Cup. Who are they?
- 2. Who are the most beaten finalists of the competition?
- In the 1982 final Cardiff were winners over Bridgend in a 12-12 scoreline by virtue of scoring a try. Who was the referee in that game?
- What is the highest score recorded in the 13 previous finals?
- Who has made the most appearances in the final?
 - 5. Llanelli 5 (4 wins, 1 defeat) and Cardiff (3 wins, 2 defeats).
 - 4. 30 points to / by Llanelli against Cardiff in 19/3.
 - 3. Clive Norling.
 - 2. Swansea three times 1976, 1980 and 1983.
 - 1. Neath, Llanelli, Newport, Swansea, Bridgend, Cardiff and Pontypool.

Rugby Quiz No. 13 - Answers

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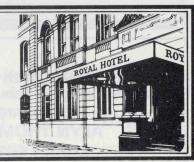
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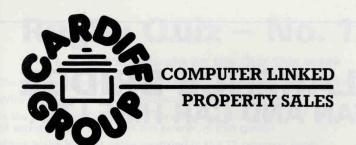
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20. K. HOPKINS

21. C. WEBBER

15. P. REES 14. G CORDLE 13. M. RING 12. A. J. DONOVAN 11. A. HADLEY 10. W. G. DAVIES 9. T. D. HOLMES (Captain) J. WHITEFOOT A. J. PHILLIPS I. EIDMAN K. EDWARDS



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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

It was only two or three years ago, it seems, when any conversation in Cardiff that included something on the lines of "That Cordle's a bit quick" could have been referring only to the Glamorgan and Cardiff cricketer Tony.

Today, it's somewhat different. Cordle is still a bit quick — the fastest in the club, according to many of his colleagues — but they are of course talking of the speedy though late-developing Cardiff Rugby Club wing Gerald.

And today's visitors, Neath, have of all teams good reason to be aware of the pace of this nephew of the quick bowler.

It was Gerald's try, converted by Gareth Davies, that made the difference at the finish in last year's Schweppes/WRU Cup Final between the two teams when a slightly fortunate Cardiff, as you will all recall, ran out winners by 24-19.

Neath, then, have played in both the first and the last (so far) WRU Cup Finals and are very ambitious to repeat their 1972 success: Cardiff, as we know, are seeking their fourth winning National Stadium appearance in only five years. The scene is set, then, for Gerald Cordle, referred to variously as The Tracksuit Man, Mr Cool or plain Gees in my conversations with people close to the club, to reach once more for the line and for the headlines.

"There was a time," says a colleague, "when Gerald Cordle seemed to be a bit of a daydreamer, lacking concentration. That's probably one of the reasons why he took a number of years to break through on to the first team scene.

"It could simply have been because his lack of rugby up-bringing meant he did not read a game too well and therefore appeared to react slowly.

"Now, he is receiving recognition because he is a much improved player. He generally seems to come good for the important matches — which may again be a part of the concentration and experience. There was that Cup Final try last year, of course, and many others, including a very good try at Newbridge in the last round of the Cup."

Perhaps the part of Rugby Football that really gives Gerald Cordle the chance to show his speedy skills are the Sevens Tournaments. He was a major force in Cardiff's Snelling victories and is still a possible for the Crawshay's party planning their visit to Hong Kong next month.

"He really must be one the best Sevens players in Wales," says a former opponent who failed to keep him quiet. "Just when you think you've got him, he's gone."

"Trouble is," says another friend laconically, "you can never find him off the field, let alone on it. He just disappears. He's always missing when you want him."

Gerald Cordle is a quiet man, at least on the surface. Although he is very much into soul and disco music (not to the pain of his team-mates: he is generally to be seen with earplugs firmly in position), he is, as another friend says, "a part of a new breed of club rugby players, a different brand, a different set-up to the traditional.

"They like a good time but they don't drink much, don't go falling about the place after matches. But that doesn't mean that Gerald is unsociable or unpopular. Not in the least.

"If he has a problem, it is his belief that he is a cross between Carl Lewis, Ralph Boston, Ed Moses and any other famous coloured athlete you can name. And, in fairness, he a is a bit sharp is the Cool Man. His other difficulty is that he used to have Teflon hands — you know, non-stick."

Indeed, just before Christmas he is said to have confided to one Cardiff player that he was hoping to have a new pair of boots. "I trust you asked for a new pair of hands as

continued over page

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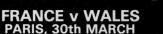
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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN continued

well," was the crushing reply.

And talking of colour and Gerald's kind of music, Quidnunc once heard quite genuinely a Cardiff City manager talking to a young pop singer who had looked remarkably talented with the ball during a charity soccer match. "Have you ever considered having a trial with the City?" asked the manager.

"Listen," said the pop singer, "it's difficult enough being coloured without that as well \dots "

I mention this because Gerald Cordle was once good enough as a soccer player to have had a trial with Cardiff City. This might well go at least some way to explaining his late development on the rugby field: a concentration in his earlier days on other sports with little formal rugby coaching.

"Three or four years ago," says a team-mate, "Gerald was a very raw player, lacking the very basic skills because he had received no coaching in passing or tackling. Passing at high speed still does not come naturally to him—nor to many others—but he really has come on tremendously since those early days.

"The baffling thing to us is that, for a soccer player, he has so little control in kicking a ball. His delicate chips ahead are still likely to land in the river or somewhere in Grangetown. But we're working on him"

It's possible that the pace of the snappy dresser from Tiger Bay will be seen even further afield this year, even if he does not go to Hong Kong. He is likely to accompany Mark Ring to Australia for a season. What with Uncle Tony in Canada and all, the Cordles are scattering to the four winds.

One thing is sure: if he does go to Hong Kong, Australia or wherever, the locals are likely to repeat with the followers of Neath at this afternoon's vital match, "That Cordle's a bit quick"

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Cardiff Rugby Club 1984-85

FIRST XV FIXTURES

1984 SEPTEMBER			Sat. 8 Sat. 22		A 21-0 H 34-13
Sat. 1	East District	H54-6	Wed. 26		H44-12
Wed. 5	Glam. Wanderers	H34-6	Sat. 29		A 12-6
Sat. 8	Neath	A12-13		Coventry	A 12-0
Wed. 12	Bristol	A 30-26	1985		
Sat. 15	Coventry	H17-0	JANUAR		
Wed. 19	Penarth	H64-3	Tues. 1		H29-24
Sat. 22	Aberavon	A 23-19	Sat. 5		H Post.
Wed. 26	Pontypridd	A 28-15	Sat. 12		H45-12
Sat. 29	Garryowen	A13-6	Sat. 26	Newbridge (Cup 3rd Rnd)	A 24-6
			FEBRUAR	RY	
OCTOBER			Sat. 2		H44-13
Sat. 6	Newport	H37-3	Sat. 9	Bristol .	H Post.
Wed. 10	Bridgend	A12-9	Fri. 15	London Welsh	H Post.
Sat. 13	Northampton	A 44-10	Sat. 23	Neath (Cup 4th Rnd)	H
Wed. 17	Pontypool	H 9-9	Wed. 27	S. Glamorgan Inst.	H
Sat. 20	Cambridge Univ.	A13-16	MARCH		
Wed. 24	Australia (all pay)	H16-12	Sat. 9	Pontypool	A
Sat. 27	Harlequins	H25-19	Fri. 15		Ĥ
Wed. 31	Newbridge	A 6-12	Wed. 20		H
NOVEMBER			Sat. 23		A
NOVEMBER			Sat. 30		A
Sat. 3 Wed. 7	Leicester	H47-21		Zidiioiii	,
	Oxford University Ebbw Vale	H15-13	APRIL		
		A 13-22	Sat. 6		H
	Tonyrefail (Cup 1st Rnd) Llanelli		Wed. 10		H
Wed. 28	Lianeili	H24-6	Sat. 13		H
DECEMBER			Sat. 20		H
Sat. 1	Swansea	A13-13	Wed. 24 Sat. 27		A
Jat. 1	Owansea	A 13-13	Sat. 27	W.R.U. Cup Final	

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1984				Sat.	15	Garndiffaith	H72-0
	EMBE			Sat.	22	Bridgend Sports	A Post.
Sat.	1	Llanharan	A46-10	Sat.	29	Coventry Extras	H18-12
Wed.	5	Glam. Wanderers II	A 22-25	Mon.	31	Bridgend Sports	A 18-12
Sat.	8	Bath United	H50-16				
Mon.	10	Pontyclun	A 18-0	1985			
Wed.	12	Bristol United	H25-9	JANU	JARY		
Sat.	15	Coventry Extras	A 21-15	Sat.	5	Moseley United	A Post.
Mon.	17	Barry	A 15-6	Sat.	12	Llandaff	A Post.
Wed.	19	Caerleon	A 26-12	Sat.	26	Neath Athletic	A 26-16
Wed.		Pontypridd Athletic	H22-21				
Sat.	29	Neath Athletic	H25-22	FEBR	UARY		
				Sat.	2	Ebbw Vale Athletic	A 30-10
OCTO Wed.		Card:tt HCOB	1104.04	Wed.	6	Pontypridd Athletic	A 21-6
		Cardiff HSOB	H 64-61	Sat.	9	Bristol United	A Post.
Sat.	6	Newport	A 27-24	Sat.	23	Llandaff	Α
Wed.		Pontypridd United	H17-10		-	Lidilddii	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Sat.	13	Abercarn	H20-11	MAR			
Wed.	17	Pontypool Athletic	A 26-16	Sat.	2	Bath United	Α
Sat.	20	Blackwood	H10-16	Wed.		Pontypool United	A
Wed.	30	Newport Saracens	H45-3	Sat.	9	Pontypool Athletic	Н
NOVE	MBER			Fri.	15	Blackwood	Α
Sat.	3	Leicester Extras	A 28-14	Wed.	20	Abercynon	H
Sat.	10	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H36-9	Sat.	23	Newport United	H
Sat.	17	St. Peters	A 15-12	Sat.	30	Bridgend Sports	Н
			A 15-12				
	MBER			APRII			
Sat.	1	Swansea Athletic	H 9-16	Sat.	13	Swansea Athletic	Α
Sat.	8	Caerleon	H44-4	Wed.		Llangennech	Α
				Sat.	20	Talywain	Α
			AND THE RESERVE				

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