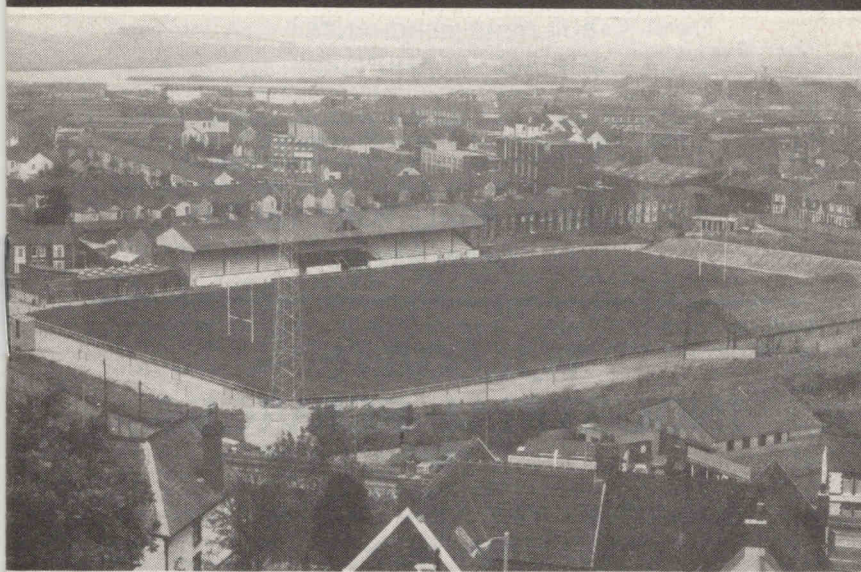




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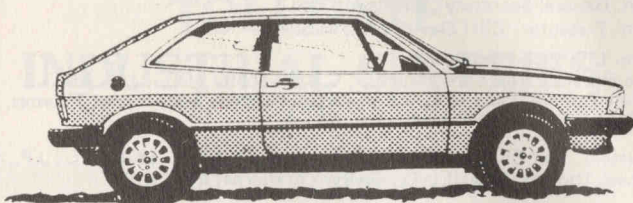
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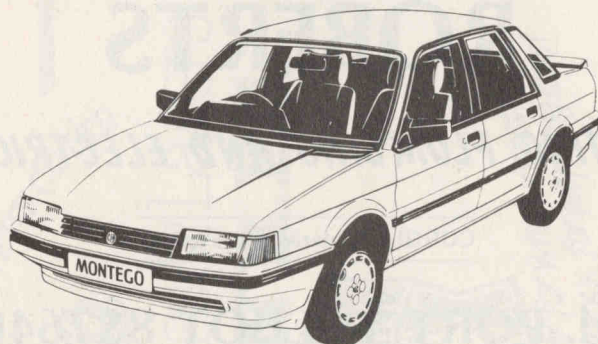


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Aberavon R.F.C. wish to express their sincere thanks to Mr. John Richardson and his Company, EARLGATE CONSTRUCTION LTD., for the generosity they have shown in sponsoring this afternoon's match.

Today it is our great pleasure not only to extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Cardiff R.F.C. to the Talbot Athletic Ground, but also to offer them our congratulations upon yet again winning the Schweppes/WRU Cup. It is a testimony to a great Club that they were able to overcome the difficulties they had encountered earlier last season and rise again to the occasion with apparent ease. They are currently on the winning trail with an entertaining victory over Coventry last Saturday standing as proof that they will be a team to watch once again this season.

Aberavon's present plight is a far different tale. The Club's current playing form, coupled with the departure of a couple of key players, make the task of writing these notes akin to that of composing an obituary. The healthy optimism that pervaded the Club during the latter part of last season has been virtually destroyed by successive disappointments. Poor results are something that can be accepted philosophically, but the defection of players to neighbouring clubs is something else, and something that is not new to the Aberavon Club. The list of players who have gone elsewhere from the Athletic Ground during the last decade alone is lengthy, and the supporters can be forgiven for wondering on such occasions whether Aberavon

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R.F.C. is merely a club which some players join in order to develop their skills before moving on to give other clubs the benefit of their experience.

While Rugby Union rules deem that a player changes clubs only as a matter of personal choice, it is no secret that a player's personal circumstances can sometimes be affected by such a move, which can then be more easily understood — but no less disappointing. Far less understandable are the to-ings and fro-ings of players using reasons such as poor results to justify their actions, for this makes one wonder when club loyalty went out of fashion. Fortunately, here at Aberavon, we are able to call upon a nucleus of players who have served the Club well for many a season, and are now required to use their experience alongside the youth of some promising newcomers whom we hope will respond accordingly. We are fortunate in particular to have regained the services of the seemingly ageless Allan Martin, who gave a superb display of his skills at the celebration match last week. Allan's contribution to Aberavon down the years has been nothing short of phenomenal, and his willingness to rejoin the ranks in our hour of need illustrates his personal commitment to the Club.

The game at Porthcawl on Monday night, while not really making amends for the team's disappointing display at Newbridge, did give the selectors the chance to run the rule over a few new faces, and with encouraging results provided that such players can be persuaded to throw in their lot with the club. Clearly there is, once more, quite some work to be done, and, yet again, supporters are asked to be patient.

Paul Williams

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HT 9-18 FT 26-22

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1986. Kick-off 3 p.m.

ABERAVON

- 15 GARY MATTHEWS T
- 14 PETER JONES
- 13 MARTIN THOMAS
- 12 JOHN DEVONALD
- 11 ROWLAND REES EVANS
- 10 MIKE LEWIS PPPCTT
- 9 RAY GILES (Capt.)
- 1 PAUL KNIGHT
- 2 BILLY JAMES
- 3 DAVID JOSEPH
- 4 ALLAN MARTIN
- 5 MARK WATTS
- 6 PAUL YARDLEY
- 8 DAVID MOORE ~~THOMAS~~ A. Thomas
- 7 JOHN O'CALLAGHAN

Replacements —
Howell Jenkins
David Williams

CARDIFF

- 15 MIKE RAYER
- 14 GRAHAM DAVIES T
- 13 MARK RING T
- 12 ALUN DONOVAN (Capt.)
- 11 ADRIAN HADLEY T
- 10 DAVID EVANS C
- 9 NEIL O'BRIEN
- 1 JEFF WHITEFOOT
- 2 IAN GREENSLADE
- 3 IAN EIDMAN
- 4 KEVIN EDWARDS
- 5 ROBERT NORSTER
- 6 GARETH ROBERTS TT
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Graham Pritchard

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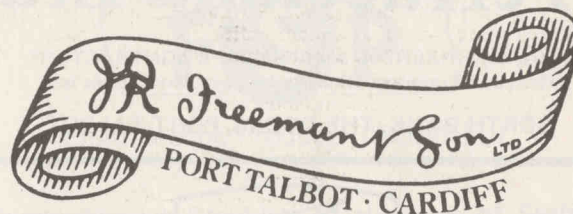
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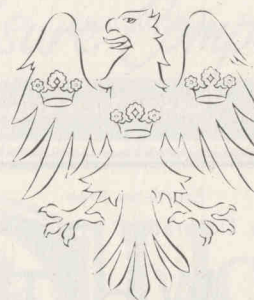
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