

**Cardiff**  
**Rugby Club**  
**v. COVENTRY**  
Saturday, 20th September, 1986. 3.00 p.m.  
**Official Programme 30p**



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## BRAINS

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A BEER SO WELL.**



## Cardiff v. Coventry

**SATURDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 1986**

**KICK-OFF 3.00p.m.**

Well here we are with the season but three weeks old and it already appears that the roof is falling in on us. The successive defeats away to both Bristol and Neath have adequately served notice on us and complacency is a commodity which can really be thrown out of the window. Lady Luck has chosen to frown on us injury wise and this coupled with unavailability have combined to give us the poorest start to a season since 1982-83 when we lost our first three games.

The situation then is tailor made for the Jeremiahs and The Prophets of Doom to have a field day as to what the future holds. Closer examination of the defeats however, particularly at Bristol reveals that the situation is not all that desperate. On the night we were very much understrength at forward due to the injury/unavailability problem and this in turn lead to an abundance of possession for the Bristol backs. Given the same amount I'm sure that our backs on the night could have made the result very much different. As it happens it was only the complete honesty of the Cardiff touch judge and his flag made the margin of defeat that little bit bigger when he unquestioningly ruled that Adrian Hadley had marginally infringed the line on his way to what could have been one of the best tries scored at Bristol for many a long day. Still one man's meat is another's poison and on the night the Rags also lost to their Bristol counterparts on The Arms Park by 27-23. They appeared dead and buried at half time with the score at 24-6 but a real fight back nearly brought them back from the beyond. It was a memorable night for the West Country club however because that was the first time since season 1955-56 that they had defeated both sides on the same day. It was also a bonanza night for the HTV West sports newscaster who goes into rapturous eulogies when either Bristol or Bath beat a club from this side of the bridge.

Back to today now however when hopefully after no game during the week, the injury situation may have abated somewhat. With all respects to the very gallant East District side it also heralds our first top notch opposition on a home Saturday and further sees the first of our English visitors for the season - Coventry. This will be our 104th game in the series with the Midland club which started on 23rd November 1891.

In those intervening years there have been many a classic encounter and I'm sure JBG will be spoilt for choice in selecting a particular past match for his article in this programme. Of the 103 previous games we have won 67 to Coventry's 29 with 7 drawn and a points total of 1,586 for to 878 against. 'Cov' of course are now only biennial visitors to Cardiff as are we to Coundon Road, the Midlanders home ground. Their success rate at Cardiff has been very spasmodic indeed. Of their 29 wins only 8 of them were achieved in Cardiff. The last came by the odd point in 37 in September 1972 and only their fourth since the second world war. That win was also the first of a string of three as they won both the following games at Coventry. They had managed this on two previous occasions and that is only bettered by the four consecutive wins they achieved in 1931 to 1934 to highlight their most successful era. For our part we have managed a string of nine consecutive victories which were registered in the period March 1951 to April 1955. At this point in time we have five wins on the trot under our belts since the 25 all draw at the Arms



Park in September 1982. That particular game will be very well remembered for its two hour delayed kick off and I'm sure St. Albans Band for one will be only too pleased to see the Coventry bus arrive in good time for the scheduled K.O. today.

What of the Midlands present state of the polls then. Well they finished last year in great fashion after the disappointment of a first round defeat against mighty Leicester in the John Player Cup. They had some good results and were very pleased to have included a home win against Pontypool amongst those successes. This season has been a bit of a mixed bag situation however. Their visit to Rodney Parade a fortnight ago saw them go down on Welsh ground yet again by 20-13. They came back to favour however last Saturday when they beat John Smith Merit Table winners Gloucester by 19 points to 11 at Coundon Road. Their injury situation is similar to our own but in a slightly different fashion. Their problem lies in the fact that most of their appreciable list of injuries are amongst the backs whereas ours appear forward dominated. Ex-captain Steve Thomas has yet to play and talented centre Dave Jones is also sidelined. International hooker Steve Brain has also left the club but the wily old Andy Farrington is an extremely good replacement. Lee Johnson at prop is now into his third year as captain and is making a very good job of it too.

A warm welcome then to Coventry players, administrators and spectators alike. May you suffer no further misfortunes with injury on this your twelfth attempt to record another victory in Cardiff since your last in 1972. In the comforting enshrouding of The Arms Park however I'm sure your opponents today will have their own views on that matter.

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## MATCHES RECALLED

J. B. G. THOMAS, the doyen of Welsh rugby writers, continues his season-long series of articles, especially written for the Cardiff programme, about a match between the day's two teams which, for one reason or another, lives in the memory. Today, he recalls an extraordinary chapter of errors that befell both Cardiff and Coventry ....

### .... And The Band Played On

The date: September 20, 1982. The score: CARDIFF 25pts COVENTRY 25pts

If one were asked to nominate the occasion on which the St. Alban's Band played for a much longer period than the duration of a match, the answer surely would be on September 20, 1982. Never before in rugby history, as far as I can trace, has a club band played, and played and played ....

In a match due to start at 3 p.m. by which time the band had played with enthusiasm for 30 minutes, a normal session for the musicians, no teams had appeared. The visitors, Coventry, were stranded in their coach and could get no nearer to the Arms Park than the ancient town of Usk.

Their officials tried in vain to acquire another coach, but where are the spare coaches on a Saturday afternoon in autumn? Naturally, they failed and made a telephoned S.O.S. call to the Cardiff Club. Immediately, a posse headed by chairman Tony Williams, set off for rural Gwent with his rescue fleet of six cars.

A rescue was achieved but not before the chairman's new car had broken down.

And the band played on.

By now they were short of breath and nearing the end of their extensive repertoire. Then came the dramatic announcement that the visitors had arrived and the match would start at 5.30 p.m.

Several spectators with evening appointments and waiting families in the city centre could stay no longer and asked for their money back.

The gallant band played on to become the real heroes of the day while completing a three-hour session without repeating themselves: almost an entry for the Guinness Book of Records!

Those spectators that remained saw an interesting match and Cardiff's troubles were far from over. Chris Webber departed for an early bath with an injured leg; Ian Eidman followed Webber with concussion and, after 30 minutes, Alun Phillips left with a torn rib cartilage.

This left Cardiff with 14 men because the two replacements, Gerald Lewis and Lawrence O'Brien, were already on the field. An additional handicap was an injury to full-back Paul Rees, who had to remain on the field although limping. It was not Cardiff's day: Like the band, the 13½ men just had to play on.

However, Cardiff managed a 12-3 lead with good tries by Neil O'Brien and Howard Stone, both converted by Gareth Davies, against a penalty by Coventry full-back Marcus Rose. By half time with Cardiff under pressure, Coventry had reduced the lead to a mere point at 13-12.

After the interval Cardiff raced away again to lead 19-13 with John Scott playing at prop, as if to prove he could play anywhere in the scrum, and when injury time was reached Cardiff led 25-19 and were hanging on bravely.

There was, however, six minutes of injury time and in the final minute the big forward John Cook crossed for Coventry and Marcus Rose converted to leave the match drawn at the final whistle at 25-25.

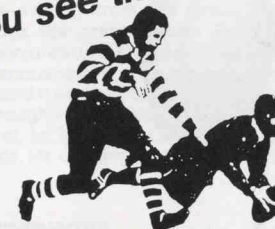
It would have been a win of merit and courage had Cardiff succeeded but it was a day to remember. Davies, O'Brien, Norster and Scott were outstanding in the brave battle against odds while Coventry, although active and full of challenge, did not take full tactical advantage of Cardiff through injury. Indeed, Coventry should have beaten 13½ fit players.

Yet it was exciting because of the bursts of scoring that caused the lead to change hands regularly, and it was one of the only two drawn and high-scoring matches for Cardiff during the season. The other was against the Barbarians on Easter Saturday at 32-32. Draws are much rarer now with the greater opportunity to score points than before the law changes and scoring values amended.

Still the match will be remembered most for the valiant effort of the St. Alban's Band.

Long may they play on at the Arms Park

*Did you see that?*



*If not — see me!*

**J. Warren Hailes**

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DEREK STEARS

## QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

'AIRF AND 'AIRF, if you'll forgive the attempts at a Cardiff accent, usually means in these parts a combination of beers if you are in a pub or a mixture of rice and chips if you are in Caroline Street or one of countless curry houses. In the case of today's subject for libel (using a combination of those legal possibilities, hatred, ridicule and contempt), it is apparently his way of expressing the fact that he is neither Welsh nor Galician, neither British nor Spanish, though in the course of these meanderings we may well discover where his true loyalty lies. The 'Mad Onion', as he is known to his colleagues and enemies, is also in danger, they allege, of acquiring from his wife Deborah some dangerous County Kerry characteristics, thereby making him a truly thoroughbred mongrel.

Mind you, it would have needed less of the attributes of a Welsh corgi or Irish wolfhound and more of his pet dobermann or the Spanish bull to rescue him from the insuperable difficulties when his trainer and manager, Messrs Mark Ring and Martin Daley, 'volunteered' our hero to take on the local champion in a Thai boxing ring. You, of course, will appreciate that in this sport they are likely to spring in the air and kick you in the throat, a tactic not encouraged by the WRU or by British justice. Our man did not appreciate the fact – not after couple (or so) of the local beers, anyhow. And nor did the aforementioned Mr. Ring who, as is his wont, immediately staked a fiver on the result and, also as is his wont, lost. But he was sufficiently hostile to the points decision for it to require the persuasion of the Bangkok boys in blue before peace, if not the £5, was restored.

Surprising what one keeps on learning about that tour to Thailand, isn't it? Surprising, too, that our subject, along with the so-far scratch team of Messrs Crothers, Charles, Barry, Blackmore and Ring believe they constitute a squad ready for representative honours at Trivial Pursuit, that game of intellectualism at which our man claims to be club champion (while less kind colleagues say he is yet to answer a crossword clue correctly: "let the reader decide who is telling the truth," he challenged). We will pursue this trivia no further but reveal that the victim of the day, a very amusing man, is . . .

### JOSÉ BENITO SOUTO

#### PERSONAL DETAILS

**Birthplace:** St. David's Hospital, Cardiff (not Coruna, the family seat).

**Birthday:** December 9, 1961.

**Height/Weight:** 6ft, 15 stone. ("which should be a bit less.")

**School:** St. Illtyd's.

**Clubs:** St. Joseph's, Old Illydians, Cardiff.

**Married:** Yes, to Deborah.

**Children:** No. But there is a pet dobermann called Bruno who takes Deborah jogging in Heath Park.

**Employment:** "General cowboy . . . no, you'd better put down self-employed building contractor . . . Cowboy, as I said."

**Car:** Peugeot 205 GTI.

**Superstitions:** None.

**Career:** Welsh Youth cap in South Africa.

**Club Nickname:** Onion. The Mad Onion. Rachman (clearly his Spanish and building activities are viewed with cynicism by his colleagues.)

**Hobbies:** A bit of a golfer – "well, pitch and putt." Home wine-making from the grape. Jose actually buys the grapes down Bessemer Road and conjures up about 154 litres a year in the cask. Serious stuff, this. He lets it mature for six months and it works out about £1 a litre less "and is thoroughly enjoyable to make." He has not, however, let loose the Cardiff RFC Wine Club officials, Mr. Golding and Mr. Webber, on the tasting.

#### PERSONAL FAVOURITES

**Rugby Players:** Mark Ring and Terry Holmes.

**Referee:** No such thing.

**Biggest Influence:** Brother Pedro (Peter, to you) who, you will recall, disappeared to play for Fulham, St. Helens etc in that other game.

**Other Sport:** Hurling. Oh dear, it's that Irish influence. Bull-fighting (and we're not talking about Kevin Edwards nor John Scott).

**Sportsperson:** Fatima Whitbread . . . "those eyes, those thighs?"

**Film:** Midnight Express.

**Actor:** Charles Bronson.

**Actress:** Deborah Kerr.

**Comedian:** Russ Abbott.

**Pop Star:** Frankie goes to Hollywood.

**Holiday Resort:** The Algarve – especially Praia da Rocha.

**Food:** Paella. Steak. Preferably together. With the steak on top.

**Drink:** Wine – "mine and Riojan."

**Politician:** Margaret Thatcher . . . General Franco.

**Rugby Ground:** Garndiffaith. (Have YOU ever been on that windswept, bitter pitch?)

#### MEMORIES

**Best:** Winning the Welsh Youth cap in front of a full house in Newlands, Cape Town. Coming on with five minutes to go in the match which was a curtain raiser to a British Lions game ensured a vast crowd.

**Worst:** Being selected to play at Garndiffaith. Or Neath last Saturday.

#### AMBITION

To be capped by Spain. Oh yes, and to win a regular place in the Cardiff Team.



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## Rugby Quiz – No. 3

With injuries very much in mind let us have a look at that particular aspect of the game.

1. The 1980 Lions side to South Africa was an injury ridden effort. How many replacements were sent out?
2. How many Welshmen returned prematurely from that particular tour?
3. The first British Isles side ever to tour the Antipodes in 1888 suffered the ultimate calamity. What was this?
4. Who became rugby's first mid-match replacement for an injured player?
5. Who was the first Welsh player to come on as a replacement during a Welsh international match?

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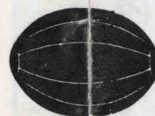
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### Cardiff

15. M. RAYER
14. G. DAVIES
13. A. DONOVAN (Captain) <sup>P 17</sup>
12. M. RING
11. A. HADLEY
10. G. JOHN
9. D. WRIGHT
1. J. WHITEFOOT
2. I. GREENSLADE
3. I. EIDMAN
4. K. EDWARDS
5. M. PARRY
6. G. ROBERTS <sup>16</sup>
8. J. SCOTT
7. T. CROTHERS
16. M. POOLE
17. D. WILLIAMS

<sup>17</sup> D. O'DRISCOLL

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



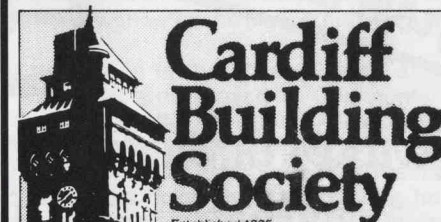
Replacements

Referee: Mr. W. O. DAVIES

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### Coventry

15. M. FAIRN
14. E. SAUNDERS
13. J. MINSHULL
12. C. MEDFORD
11. C. WYNTER
10. M. LAKEY
9. D. CLARKE
1. L. JOHNSON (Captain)
2. A. FARRINGTON
3. S. WILKES
4. A. GULLIVER
5. B. KIDNER
6. B. TRAVERS
8. G. ROBBINS
7. M. TRUMPER
16. K. JERVIS
17. T. WILLIAMS



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Roy Roberts learned his early rugby in his home village school at Taffs Well. He moved on to higher education at Caerphilly Grammar School where he represented his First XV during his last two years. On leaving school he joined Taffs Well where his 6ft 1in/14½ stone frame soon brought him into prominence. He joined the Cardiff Club in 1936-37 season when he won his Rags cap. During the following season he won his First XV cap and established himself as first choice and also showed commendable skill in place kicking.

He was of course from great sporting stock as an uncle of the fabulous Williams family of Taffs Well and a cousin of Bill Tamplin with whom he played many a game as second row.

In wartime Roy served with great distinction in the Welsh Guards and was awarded the Military Medal. During his service he played at Regimental and Divisional levels and also represented the full Army XV. Demobbed in March 1946 he played in a Past v Present celebrity game in aid of the Royal Infirmary when the then magnificent sum of £1,548-2s-3d was presented to that institution. The Present side won by 23 points to 17 but instead of the game being Roy's swan song he was persuaded to carry on playing and did so until he finally called it a day at the end of season 1948-49. In all he played 150 first team games, scored 14 tries and kicked numerous penalty goals.

Roy is now a happy senior citizen and lives a quiet life in retirement in Taffs Well.

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## Rugby Quiz No. 3 – Answers

1. In all eight replacements were sent out A. Irvine (Scotland), P. Dodge (England), A. Ward (Ireland), J. Robbie (Ireland), S. Smith (England), G. Williams (Wales), I. Stephens (Wales) and P. Orr (Ireland).
2. Four, Stuart Lane, Gareth Davies, Terry Holmes and David Richards.
3. The elected captain R.L. Seddon drowned in a boating accident in Australia.
4. Barry Bresnihan for fellow Irishman Mike Gibson in the opening match of The Lions 1968 tour of South Africa in which they beat Western Transvaal 59-13.
5. Phil Bennett against France, March 1969.

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WRU/SCHWEPES CUP WINNERS 1986: On the back row, from the left: A. Donovan, D. Gibbon, J. Whitefoot, G. Roberts, P. Rees, I. Eidman, C. Collins.  
Middle Row: D. Evans, J. Scott, R. Norster, K. Edwards, J. Souto, M. Ring. Front Row: A. Hadley, O. Golding, N. O'Brien, A. J. Phillips (captain),  
W. G. Davies, M. Rayer, G. Cordie.



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## KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

### THE MAUL

A maul, which can take place **only** in the field-of-play, is formed by one or more players from each team on their feet and in physical contact closing round a player who is carrying the ball.

Please remember that a player is not in physical contact **unless** he is caught in or bound to the maul and not merely alongside it.

Also, if the ball in a maul is on or over the goal-line the maul is ended.

In the **field-of-play** the maul ends,

- (a) when the ball is on the ground, or
- (b) the ball or a player carrying it emerges from the maul, or
- (c) when a scrummage is ordered.

**This season Referees have been asked to pay particular attention to the following:-**

- (1) A player joining a maul **must** have his head and shoulders no lower than his hips.
- (2) A player **must not**:
  - (a) jump on top of players in a maul, or
  - (b) wilfully collapse a maul, or
  - (c) attempt to drag another player out of a maul.

**Such offences must be penalised.**

- (3) If a player in a maul goes to ground, including being on one knee or both knees or sitting on the ground, a scrummage is to be ordered **unless** the ball is **immediately available** for the continuation of play.

Please remember that when the ball in a maul becomes unplayable a scrummage shall be ordered and the **team which was moving forward immediately prior** to the stoppage shall put in the ball.

If neither team was moving forward - the **attacking** team shall put it in.

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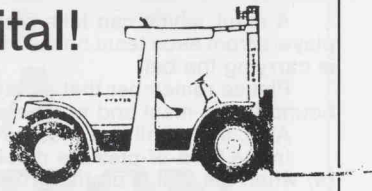
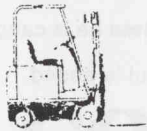
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# Cardiff Rugby Club 1986-87

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<b>1986</b>			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Mon. 1	St. Peters	A	27-12
Wed. 3	Glamorgan Wanderers	H	22-13
Sat. 6	East District	H	30-9
Wed. 10	Bristol	A	14-27
Sat. 13	Neath	A	7-24
Sat. 20	Coventry	H	.....
Wed. 24	Pontypridd	A	.....
Sat. 27	Aberavon	A	.....
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Sat. 4	Newport	H	.....
Wed. 8	Bridgend	A	.....
Sat. 11	Northampton	H	.....
Sat. 18	Wasps	A	.....
Wed. 22	Pontypool	H	.....
Sat. 25	Harlequins	H	.....
Wed. 29	Bath	A	.....
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Sat. 1	Leicester	H	.....
Wed. 5	Oxford University	H	.....
Sat. 8	Ebbw Vale	A	.....
Sat. 15	W.R.U. Cup 1st Round		
Sat. 22	Llanelli	H	.....
Wed. 26	Newbridge	A	.....
Sat. 29	Bangor (N.I.)	H	.....
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Sat. 6	Swansea	A	.....
Sat. 13	London Welsh	A	.....

Sat. 20	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round	H	.....
Fri. 26	Pontypridd	H	.....
Sat. 27	Bridgend		
<b>1987</b>			
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Thur. 1	Bath	H	.....
Sat. 3	Moseley	H	.....
Sat. 10	Aberavon	H	.....
Fri. 16	City of Derry	H	.....
Sat. 24	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round		
Sat. 31	Llanelli	A	.....
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Fri. 6	Maesteg	A	.....
Sat. 14	Bristol	H	.....
Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale	H	.....
Sat. 28	W.R.U. Cup 4th Round		
<b>MARCH</b>			
Fri. 6	London Welsh	H	.....
Sat. 14	Pontypool	A	.....
Wed. 18	Penarth	H	.....
Sat. 28	Newport (S.F. W.R.U. Cup)	A	.....
<b>APRIL</b>			
Wed. 1	S. Glam. Institute	H	.....
Sat. 4	Bedford	A	.....
Sat. 11	Swansea	H	.....
Sat. 18	Barbarians	H	.....
Sat. 25	Neath	H	.....

## ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

<b>1986</b>			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Wed. 3	Glamorgan Wanderers II	A	35-20
Sat. 6	Kidwelly	H	36-16
Wed. 10	Bristol United	H	23-27
Sat. 13	Maesteg Celtic	H	20-16
Wed. 17	Garniffaith	A	25-9
Sat. 20	Coventry Extras	A	.....
Wed. 24	Old Illydians	H	.....
Sat. 27	Abercynon	H	.....
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Wed. 1	Pontypridd Athletic	H	.....
Sat. 4	Newport United	A	.....
Wed. 8	Bridgend Sports	H	.....
Sat. 11	Neath Athletic	A	.....
Wed. 15	Resolven	H	.....
Sat. 18	St. Peters	H	.....
Wed. 22	Pontypool Athletic	A	.....
Sat. 25	Tondu	A	.....
Wed. 29	Pyle	A	.....
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Sat. 1	Leicester Extras	A	.....
Wed. 5	Newport Saracens	A	.....
Sat. 8	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H	.....
Wed. 12	Pontypridd Athletic	A	.....
Sat. 15	Pontypool United	A	.....
Wed. 19	Bedwas	H	.....
Sat. 22	Bridgend Ravens	A	.....
Wed. 26	Berry Hill	H	.....
Sat. 29	Abercarn	A	.....

<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Sat. 6	Swansea Athletic	H	.....
Wed. 10	Cardiff & District	H	.....
Sat. 13	Risca	H	.....
Sat. 20	Neath Athletic	H	.....
Sat. 27	Bridgend Sports	A	.....
<b>1987</b>			
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Sat. 3	Moseley United	A	.....
Sat. 10	Llanharan	A	.....
Sat. 24	Bath United	H	.....
Sat. 31	Pontypool United	H	.....
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Sat. 7	Bridgend Ravens	H	.....
Wed. 11	Pencoed	H	.....
Sat. 14	Bristol United	A	.....
Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale Athletic	A	.....
<b>MARCH</b>			
Wed. 11	Pontypridd Athletic	H	.....
Sat. 14	Pontypool Athletic	H	.....
Tue. 17	Abercynon	A	.....
Wed. 25	Maesteg Celtic	A	.....
Sat. 28	Newport United	H	.....
<b>APRIL</b>			
Sat. 4	Caerleon	H	.....
Wed. 8	Bedwas	A	.....
Sat. 11	Swansea Athletic	A	.....
Wed. 15	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	H	.....
Mon. 20	Blackwood	H	.....

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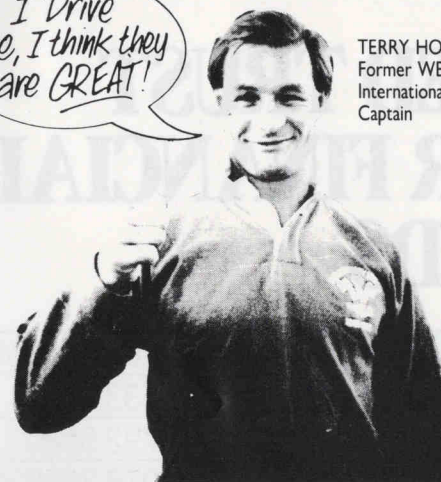
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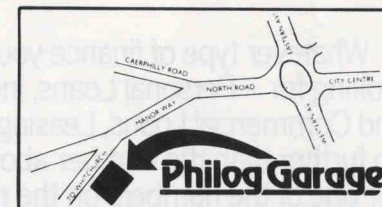
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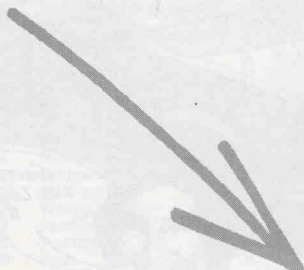
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