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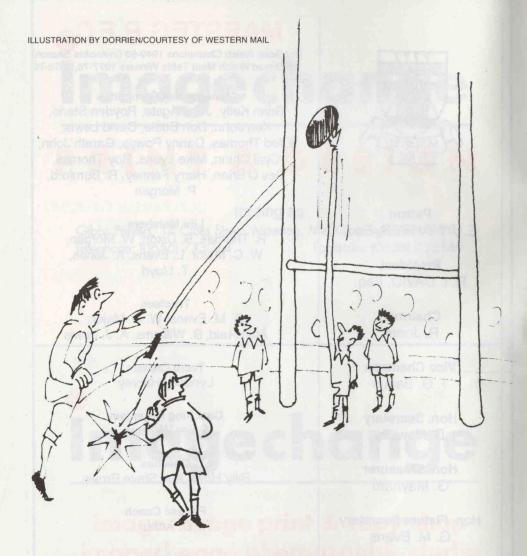
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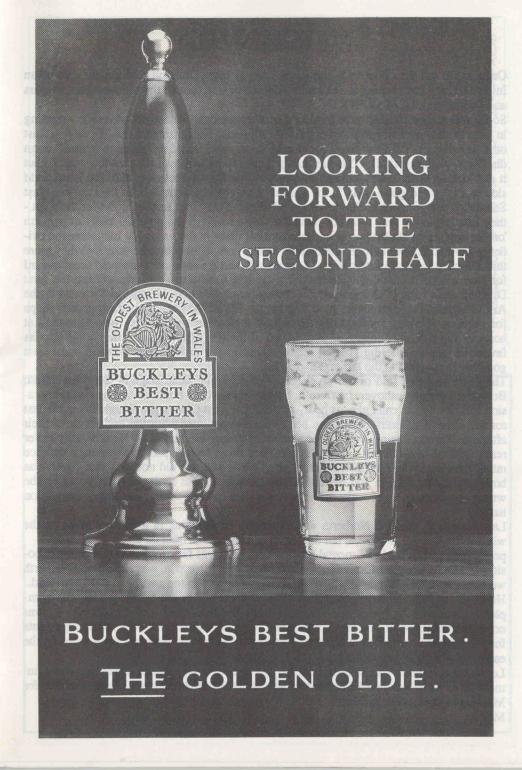
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#### **MATCH NOTES**

Once again we play host to a Heineken League First Division club on the eve of an International - this evening we extend a very warm welcome to the Management, Players and Supporters of CARDIFF R.F.C.

So far this season Cardiff have produced another curiously mixed set of results - running in bags of tries against mediocre opponents but under performing on the 'big day' against other members of "the top four" (or should we say the "top five" given the current form displayed by Pontypridd). This has been a recurring pattern over the past few seasons but it did look as if this trait had been overcome when they defeated an abrasive Pontypridd side in a televised game early in the season. However, that hasn't been the case until last Saturday's performance at Stradey Park. That game may be a turning point for the team they finally proved they have the mental ability as well as the physical skills to perform 'on the day'. Despite having Tony Rees sent off early in the game (on the television evidence I wouldn't have thought there could be any complaint about the decision) they more than matched the multi International Llanelli side and the resultant draw paid scant reward for their efforts on the day. Realistically, though, Cardiff are unlikely to head the First Division at the end of the season unless they can defeat both Neath and Swansea at the Arms Park and other results go their way but the SWALEC Cup offers them greater scope for success. Having successfully negotiated the earlier rounds they play Bridgend at home at the end of February in what is one of the ties of the round - they must start as favourites and despite the gradual improvement in our arch enemies Cardiff must be a good bet to progress to the last eight.

The same could be said of our prospects of entering the same stage of the competition; Bonymaen are no pushover, far from it, but at least we have home advantage on this occasion and, surely, we can't play as badly as we did against Glamorgan Wanderers in the last round? The Wanderers must have been very disappointed with the end result of their afternoon's work; having won a huge amount of possession but, in all fairness, they never really looked like scoring - even the try owed more from lapses in Maesteg's defence rather than creativity on the Wanderers part. Mind you, we did not look that creative as both primary possession and the use of that possession was limited. After being on the wrong end of some cup results in the past it is nice to have some luck in the competition

isn't it?

Last Saturday's result at Narberth was extremely encouraging in a number of ways; the win was important, as always, but the nature of victory was built on a

performance of tactical and mental application which was far superior to that of the opposition. The first half performance, against a near gale force win, was superb and Narberth were restricted to a 12-6 lead which was always going to be too small a margin to defend. However, the second half performance was even better as the Maesteg forwards completely destroyed the opposition scrummage and the final margin of 23 points to 12 was not a true reflection of Maesteg's dominance. Certainly there were very strong arguments for Maesteg to be awarded at least one further penalty try and Narberth were saved by the early completion of proceedings.

Let us hope tonight's fixture brings out the best in both sides and that it provides entertainment fit to allow Andrew Williams the opportunity to celebrate his 100th appearance for Maesteg in appropriate fashion.

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#### **SECTION NOTES**

#### **MAESTEG YOUTH**

On Tuesday 18th January Maesteg Youth played host to an Argentinean Touring side - Club Uru Cure. The Argentinean side were expected to provide stiff competition particularly as they contained a number of players older than the Youth age limit. In practice, however, the story was quite different - the Youth literally destroyed the opposition. Despite the adverse weather conditions the Maesteg side displayed excellent handling skills, passed the ball superbly and showed more skill than the Argentinean side.

In the final scoreline of 27 points to 5, tries were scored by Darren Morris (2), Matthew Wareham, Richard Williams and Neil Davies. In addition, current Welsh Schools International, Morris added a conversion which took his seasonal total to 91 points.

On Saturday 22nd January Maesteg Youth travelled to Blaengarw. The encounter compared unfavourably with the previous Tuesday's game and was scrappy throughout. Despite opening the scoring with a penalty from Nicky Walsh, Maesteg were headed for most of the game - in fact it wasn't until 10 minutes from time that Maesteg regained the lead through a well worked try by Mike Parry. After that it was a one man show from Nicky Walsh who scored a length of the field try, the highlight of the game, which he himself converted and then he dropped a goal to give a final scoreline of 18 points to 5. Nicky's points tally lifted him above the 50 point mark for the season - the third Maesteg player to reach this figure.

Unfortunately, last Saturday (29th January) Maesteg Youth came up against a Swansea team which eventually proved to be too big and too strong for the home side. Despite unstinting efforts Maesteg lost by 15 points to 8 with scores coming from a Johann Smith try and a Roger Barnes penalty.

Finally, congratulations to Darren Morris on his excellent performances for the Welsh Schools Under 18 section in their victories over Scotland at Llanwern and Wales Youth at Maesteg.

#### **MAESTEG UNDER 21'S**

On Wednesday 26th January Maesteg Under 21's travelled to Swansea seeking to complete a double over the St. Helens side. This they duly achieved with another excellent all round performance. The Maesteg outfit were in control throughout the game and scored tries through Darryl Clark, Geraint Lewis, Lee Jones and Richard Gregory. Richard added two conversions and a penalty goal as Maesteg extended their half time 14-5 advantage into a final result of 27 points to 15. The Under 21 section must be proud of achieving a double over Swansea and a victory over Cardiff in their inaugural season - I don't suppose many clubs can boast such a record.

#### **MAESTEG R.F.C. 200 CLUB**

The new round of the 200 Club started in January. This season the subscription has been raised to £2 per month but, obviously, there will be a commensurate increase in the Prize

Money - actual details of the increases will appear in a future programme. New members are most welcome and those interested are requested to contact Mrs. Janet Page for details,

#### FRIENDS OF THE OLD PARISH

The Friends of the Old Parish was set up in 1988 to provide active support to the playing structure of Maesteg R.F.C. In fact, the setup were the forerunners for similar support organisations at other Welsh Clubs.

The organisation is always interested in increasing its membership base and for any supporters who are interested in joining they should contact Mr. Des John or Mr. Dennis Thomas for information.

#### CARDIFF R.F.C.

Cardiff has the tradition of being the Rugby Club in Britian, a claim hotly disputed by several other clubs, though rare is the Fixture Secretary who does not want them on his list.

Yet the Cardiff Club was a small organisation when it came into being in 1872 - a small organisation in a small town. A step forward was made the following year when the club was put on a sound basis and changed its name to the Glamorgan Football Club. At that time they used to play under Cheltenham College rules, 20 players a side using a round ball. A year later, they had 66 members and rival clubs in Tredegarville and Wanderers. On 22nd September, 1876, in the Swiss Hall, Queen Street, several people met to set up a Cardiff club to rival Newport and Swansea. The Glamorgan and Wanderers clubs merged into the Cardiff Football Club and Donaldson Selby was appointed Captain. They played on the Arms Park and their playing colours were black with a white skull and crossbones. These colours, not surprisingly, lasted only one season and were replaced by Cambridge blue and black.

The most memorable match of the 1878-79 season was the cup tie with Newport, played at the Sophia Gardens, and won by Newport by one goal, two tries and four touch downs to nil. The tie attracted what was then a record crowd, included in which were at least 1,000 enthusiasts from Newport. The tie was one of the first occasions on which the Cardiff club charged gate money; the return was £72 and most of that was spent on advertising the game and roping the ground. The outstanding feat of the season was the scoring of 7 tries by Percy K. Heard, a quarterback, in the match against Blaenavon. In season 1880-81, Cardiff played Moseley for the first time and had the distinction of winning the South Wales Challenge Cup - for the first and last time. The final for the Cup, against Llanelly at Neath, lasted for one hour 46 minutes and the only score of the game, by that man Percy Heard again, was obtained in the second period of the extra ten minutes each way played. When the try was scored the crowd invaded the field and rendered further play impossible.

Four Cardiff players appeared for Wales in their first International and more than 170 have followed them. Cardiff regularly attracted good crowds and then came Frank Hancock. Hancock changed the course of the game. A Somerset man, like many of his West Country contemporaries, he took advantage of the industrialisation of South Wales to further his job prospects and he joined Cardiff. In those days there was no strict player formation and against England in 1881 and 1882, Wales pitted one forward less than the

opposition, with the backs deployed as two full backs, three quarterbacks and two half backs. Hancock saw the choice was putting one of the full backs in the scrum. Hancock had come into the Cardiff side as a reverse threequarter, played well and rather than be dropped, the selectors played one of the full backs along side him.

Under Hancock in 1885-86, Cardiff enjoyed an almost invincible season; they had won 26 out of 26 games when Moseley arrived at the Arms Park for the final game; the English side won. In 1892, Cardiff began the first golden era. Tom Pearson was captain and Cardiff's conveyor belt of talent rolled; Norman Biggs, Gwyn Nicholls, Selwyn Biggs, H.

B. Winfield, Percy Bush, Jack Brown, Rhys Gabe and several more.

In 1898, they picked up their first unofficial championship, they have won it 12 times, more than any other club, and the golden era lasted until 1909. The inter war years probably saw Cardiff at their quietest, at least until the 1970's. they continued to produce outstanding players. Clem Lewis, Tom Wallace, Arthur Cornish, Danny Davies, Ronnie Boon, Harry Bowcott, Codger Johnson, Les Spence, Cliff Jones and Wilf Wooller to name a few but it was not until 1936 that they asserted themselves as a team. At the end of the 1920's they had decided to run two first fifteens and this lead to a period of inconsistency.

They won three consecutive championships before the war and resumed after it in style taking it in again in 1948 and 1949. In the 1947-48 season they completed a record year with 39 wins and only 2 losses and amassed 803 points with Bleddyn Williams creating a club record with 41 tries. They defeated, no crushed, the Australian Touring Team and, to cap it all, created a world record by providing 10 players for the Welsh team against Scotland. In fact, Cardiff could field 11 Internationals that season in Maldwyn James, Jack Matthews, Bleddyn Williams, Haydn Tanner, Billy Cleaver, Les Williams, Cliff Davies, Les Manfield and Gwyn Evans, not forgetting Billy Tamplin and Frank Trott. On 17th February, 1951 48,500 piled into the Arms Park to see Cardiff lose to Newport, Cliff Morgan and Rex Willis started to delight crowds, the All Blacks were defeated in 1953,

Stan Bowes captained the Rags and Sid Judd the first team.

This second golden era lasted until 1958 and the club did not see success like it until the 1980's. There were individual stars as usual, six Cardiff players toured South Africa with the British Lions in 1968, and great players like Barry John, Gareth Edwards, D. K. Jones, Maurice Richards, Gerald Davies and Keri Jones stalked the field. But individual success detracted from the team performance and, in the 1970's, lack of reverse strength pushed Cardiff back in the rankings. Then came John Scott; he helped rediscover Cardiff's desire for silverware, aided by players such as Gareth Davies, Terry Holmes, Alan Phillips, Bob Norster, Mark Ring and Bob Lakin, but such is Scott's importance that he deserves to go down as the greatest captain ever to captain 'the greatest'. WRU Cup triumphs were common place in the early Eighties with wins in 81, 82, 84, 86 and 87. However, since those heady days success has eluded Cardiff despite reorganisation within their coaching setup, Alec Evans heading the unit, and a seemingly massive annual influx of players. Again Cardiff have a number of talented individuals, Mike Rayer, Nigel Walker and ex Maesteg centre Mike Hall amongst them but it is quite apparent that the team under perform on the big day.

#### STATSFILE

Most Appearances: 470 Alan Phillips (1975-1989)
Career Points: 3143 Gareth Davies (1977-1986)
Season Points: 383 Gareth Davies (1983/84)

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#### MAESTEG

Matthew Brown

Richard Jarvis

Roddy Boobyer

David Williams

Robert Jones

Nigel Evans

**Gary Davies** 

Phil Pincher

Rhys Evans

Paul Buckle

Damien Neill

Paul Matthews

**Brett Davey** 

Mark Watts (Capt)

15

14

13

12

11

10

2

3

Full Back

Left Centre

Left Wing

Outside Half

Inside Half

Prop

Hooker

Prop

Lock

Lock

Flanker

No.8 Flanker

Referee:

Michael Cox

Right Wing 14 Steve Ford Right Centre 13 Rhydian Ph

LUCKY NUMBER:

13 Rhydian Phillips12 Colin Laity

15 lestyn Williams

No

CARDIFF

0506

11 Martin Payne

10 Simon Davies

9 Gareth Baber

1 Kevin Matthews

2 Huw Bevan

3 Phil Sedgemore

1 John Wakeford

5 Stuart Roy

6 Owain Williams

8 Phil Ager

7 Mark Bennett

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53 Gareth Edwards (consecutive between 1967 and 1978) Most Capped Player:

and 10 Lions' appearances.

107-3 vs Plymouth Albion - 9th January, 1993 Record Win:

37 Ceri Thomas vs Plymouth Albion (as above) Most Points in a Match:

185 Bleddyn Williams (1945-1955) Career Tries: 41 Bleddyn Williams (1947/48) Season Tries: 7 Percy Heard vs Blaenavon 1878/79 Most Tries in a Match:

6 Derrick Preece vs Gowerton - 18th December 1982 (Post War):

#### LOOKING BACK

The following report was printed in the Western Mail on Friday 2nd January, 1920. Despite the comment in the opening paragraph my researchers cannot find any evidence

of Maesteg playing Cardiff prior to this fixture.

Maesteg who it is said once defeated Cardiff at the Arms Park 1.1.1920 went all out on New Year's Day to repeat this victory. The second half was in their favour, and at no period of the game could it be said that the Cardiff men were comfortably situated. The visiting forwards were magnificent in the open, and the rapidity with which they got amongst the Cardiff backs tended to put the latter off their game. Their backs share in defence rather than attack and Trevor Davies and Evan Davies found touch with splendid length and judgment. Cardiff's only score was gained just before the interval after brilliant passing in which the halves and backs participated. Nick Powell sprinted through the opposition at top speed to beat the Maesteg custodian by re-passing to Cornish who ran over and grounded beneath the posts. Dr. Wallace converted.

Teams: Cardiff: Attley, W. Powell (Capt), A. Cornish, Dr. Wallace and C. Bryant, R. Podd and Pepperall, Willie Jenkins (V. Capt), G. Dalryuple, W. Cornish, J. Birch, Dai

Llewellyn, J. Crowley and C. Rees.

Maesteg: Evan Davies, D.R. Thomas, Trevor Davies, Tal Llewellyn and G. Rees, Curley Thomas and T. Loveland, A. Rees, T. Ackerman, T.L. Richards, W. Jones, D. Llewellyn,

M. Coleman, Dick Davies and L. Davies.

February 1920 Cardiff paid their first visit to Maesteg who were anxious to avenge the defeat suffered on New Year's Day. D. R. Thomas opened the scoring for Maesteg with a fine try but this effort was soon equalised when Dr. Wallace put Buttridge over in the corner. The final result of 3 points each was regarded as a fair reflection of the game. Incidentally, the match was refereed by one of the greats of the day - A.E. Freethy from Neath.

Maesteg paid a visit to the Arms Park and defeated Cardiff by 14 points 23.10.1926 to nil. By doing so they took Cardiff's ground record. D.H. Davies kicked a penalty and this was followed by a try by Tommy Loveland converted by Evan Davies. Edgar Thomas scored the second try whilst the final one was obtained by Dai Pugh. Edgar Thomas was described as 'positively outstanding' and Jackie Reynolds as 'the find of the season'. The teams which participated in the match which witnesses Maesteg's solitary away win over Cardiff were:-

Cardiff: A. Williams, A.V. Harding, W. Goodwin, H. Howe, D.N. Williams, T. Alan Davey, W.H. Bowcott, M. O'Regan, A.R. Richards, F. Porter, T. Burns, H. Sharp, S.C.

Cravos, F. Lee, E. Marsh.

Maesteg: Evan Davies, G. Rees, T. Loveland, E. Thomas, H. Pike (capt), D.H. Davies,

J. Reynolds, D. Pugh, D. Vaughan, Fred Owen, T.L. Richards, G. Cox, Ben Evans, P. Pritchard, W. Jenkins.

2.11.1964 The new floodlighting system at the Old Parish ground was 'switched on' officially by Club Chairman Will Thomas. The event was marked by a special fixture against Cardiff. Maesteg, captained by second row John Evans, were defeated by 24 points to 9 by a strong Cardiff XV. Maesteg's points came from a try by right wing David Spiers with full back Eric Gardner contributing two penalty goals.

This fixture, during Maesteg's centenary season, represented Maesteg's 13.10.1982 largest win over Cardiff. In a thrilling game of high quality rugby Maesteg's points came from tries by scrum half Huw Llewellyn (2), outside half Peter Davies, Wilson Lauder and captain David Arthur. The goal kicking duties were shared by Gwyn Evans (2 penalties)

and Steve Brown (penalty and conversion).

Another high scoring game which, alas, represented Maesteg's last vic-2.2.1987 tory over Cardiff. Tries were scored by winger Guy Evans, prop Richard Doble and a penalty try while 'man of the match' Alun Davies at scrum half kicked 18 points (3 pens, 3 con, 1 dg).

31.12.1988 This was the last occasion on which Maesteg had a decent result against Cardiff - the game at the Arms Park ending in a 10-10 draw. Full back Peter Bradley dropped two goals and who can forget Richard Doble's 20 yard dash to the line for a fine

try?!

This game at the Old Parish represented the first Heineken League fix-7.12.1991 ture between the teams. Maesteg went into the game with high hopes of victory as Cardiff were experiencing an inconsistent season. However, that confidence proved misplaced as the Cardiff backs, and Mike Rayer in particular, showing excellent pace and handling skills to carve out openings almost at will in the Maesteg defence. Maesteg could only muster two Darren Edwards' penalties on the day.

#### **MAESTEG vs CARDIFF** (Analysis since 1945)

	P	W	D	L
HOME	11	4		7
AWAY	14	EAIU M	3	11
	25	4	3	18

#### **RESULTS SINCE 1982/83**

	Maesteg Scores First			
	HOME	AWAY		
982/83	W31-24	7 01 01		
983/84	61 . 2945. LEVEL DI	D26-26		
985/86	or 4842 Caterory	L3-15		
986/87	W30-24	68501 7:87972 T		
987/88	209 2210 14	D9-9		
.988/89	L9-25	D10-10		
989/90	L9-29	Sand a silverine of Trans		
991/92	L6-32 (L)	L9-22 (1		
992/93	L11-21 (L)	L3-55 (C) L0-54		

Maesteg's Biggest Win 31-24 Home October - 13th, 1982 Maesteg's Biggest Defeat 9-77 Away December - 23rd, 1972

NOTES: Maesteg first played Cardiff as far back as 1920 but for various reasons there have been several lapses in the continuity of fixtures. One explanation may be that Cardiff ran two sides for many seasons and there is much evidence between Maesteg and Cardiff 'Rags' during the Twenties and Thirties. However, our records indicate that the two sides have met on 34 occasions with the playing record standing at P 34, D 4 and L 21 so maesteg's record before the War was extremely good.

#### **DIVISION 2 ROUND-UP**

Last Saturday's away victory over Narberth was only good enough for Maesteg to retain fourth place in the table although it enabled us to put some daylight between us and the same opposition. The other sides in action above us, Abertillery and Tenby United both achieved victories; Abertillery won a dour game by 8 points to 6 over inconsistent Mountain Ash while Tenby outclassed Llandovery by 24 points to 9 at Church Bank. The only other fixture played featured another inconsistent side Ebbw Vale hosting the ever improving Glamorgan Wanderers; the Gwent side just squeezed in with two late penalties from Martin Jones, that man again, to win by 12 points to 10. The Wanderers must be a little fed up with the poor reward from their last two fixtures! As an aside the Wanderers have signed up hooker Tim Henson along with Llanharan second string outside half Richard Cogbill plus Steve James and Ossie Fahiya in an effort to bolster their squad for the all important run in to the end of the season.

Our next League game would now appear to be on March 5th when we entertain Llanharan (at the time of writing the Llandovery game scheduled for February 26th has yet to be re-arranged); a repeat of the victory gained in early October is essential for our promotion hopes. The outcome of the fixture takes on added significance with two other very important League fixtures being held on the same day - the local derbies between Ebbw Vale and Abertillery and Tenby United and Narberth. Stating the obvious - if all the results go in our favour there will be a massive impetus to our campaign.

#### HEINEKEN DIVISION 2 (as at 29th January, 1994)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Treorchy	16	15	1	0	308	141	31
Abertillery	16	10	111	5	352	201	21
Tenby United	17	10	0	7	264	241	20
Maesteg	15	9	1	5	245	165	19
Narberth	16	8	0	8	213	184	16
Ebbw Vale	16	7	2	7	214	210	16
S.W. Police	13	7	0	6	209	210	14
Llanharan	14	5	2	7	146	208	12
Llandovery	15	5	1	9	182	280	11
Mountain Ash	15	5	0	10	180	224	10
Penarth	14	4	0	10	189	288	8
Glam Wanderers	15	2	0	13	173	323	4

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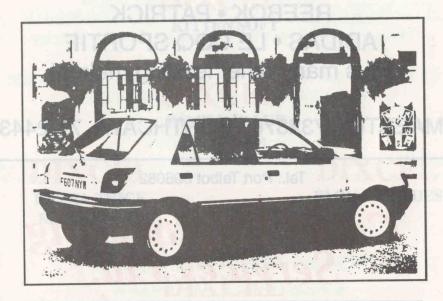
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#### FIXTURES 1993/1994 SEASON

Septe	ember,	1993			Janua	ary, 19	94	
Wed	1	Blaengarw	Н	58- 0	Mon	3	Pontypooi	A 20-20
Sat	4	Mountain Ash (L)	H	9- 5	Sat	8	Swansea	A 21-21
Tue	7	Tonyrefail	A	22- 0	Tue	11	Cilfynydd	A 51- 5
Sat	11	Ebbw Vale (L)	Α	32-20	Fri	14	Newbridge	H 8-27
Tue	14	Nantyffyllon	Α	11- 3	Sat	22	G Wands (C)	H 9-5
Sat	18	Abertillery (L)	Н	21-11	Sat	29	Narberth (L)	A 23-12
Sat	25	Llandovery (L)	Α	10-20				
Tue	28	Pontypridd	A	25-46	Febru	lary, 1	994	
		The second of the second			Fri	4	Cardiff	H
Octob	per, 19	93			Wed	9	Bridgend	A
Sat	2	Narberth (L)	H	17-10	Sat	12	Newport	Α
Tue	5	Aberavon	Н	10-17	Tue	15	Nantyffyllon	H
Sat	9	Llanharan (L)	A	24- 5	Fri	18	Newbridge	A
Tue	12	Newport	H	23-21	Sat	26	Bonymaen (C)	H
Fri	15	Pontypool	H	9-48	NO COLET			
Sat	23	Penarth (L)	H	36- 0	March, 1994			
Tue	26	Swansea	Н	17-39	Sat	5	Llanharan (L)	H
Sat	30	S W Police (L)	A	10-15	Tue	8	Neath	H
		C W M CE C.			Sat	12	Cardiff	Α
Nove	mber,	1993			Tue	15	Pontypridd	H
Sat	6	Treorchy (L)	H	9-19	Sat	26	Penarth (L)	Α
Sat	13	Glam Wands (L)	H	24-0				
Sat	20	Tenby Utd (L)	A	5- 3	April,	1994		
Sat	27	Mountain Ash (L)	Α	6-12	Sat	2	Treorchy (L)	Α
					Mon	4	Aberavon	H
Dece	mber,	1993			Sat	9	S W Police (L)	H
Fri	3	Ebbw Vale (L)	Н	6 - 6	Sat	16	Coventry	Н
Sat	11	Abertillery (L)	Α	13-22	Sat	23	G Wands (L)	Α
Wed	22	Aberavon	A	21-37	Sat	30	Tenby Utd (L)	H
Thu	30	Crumlin (C)	Α	17- 6				
		or thought the			May,	1994		
					Sat	7	Cup Final	

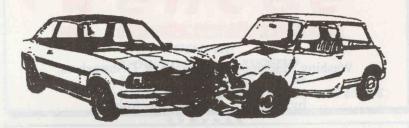
<sup>\*</sup> The League match against Llandovery, originally scheduled for 26th February, is to be rearranged because of SWALEC Cup commitments

#### NEXT HEINEKEN LEAGUE HOME GAME:

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