

# *Cardiff Rugby Football Club*

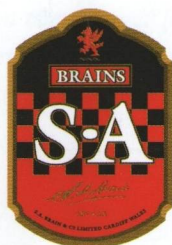


*125th Anniversary Season*

# *Gala Dinner*

*City Hall Cardiff  
Thursday 30th May 2002*

*Event sponsored by*



# Welcome

*It is a great honour for me to hold the post of President of Cardiff Athletic Club. Fifty years ago when the club celebrated its 75th Anniversary I played in a very special match between Cardiff and the British Lions at the Arms Park. What an occasion that was. The arrangements had started on the 1950 Lions tour to New Zealand and Australia when Dr Jack Matthews and myself approached the manager, Surgeon-Capt Ginger Osborne, about the possibility of a full Lions team playing their first-ever game in the British Isles.*



*He agreed, and so did the Four Home Unions, and the arrangements were left in the inspiring hands of the club's chairman, Hubert Johnson, and a sub-committee. The result was that on 22 September 1951 over 40,000 people at the Arms Park witnessed an historic event. Cardiff outscored the Lions by four tries to three but lost narrowly 12-14. Three hours after the final whistle 350 guests toasted the club at a dinner at City Hall. This evening we return to the same venue to again celebrate this great club.*

*Our 125th anniversary season has been very different from the celebrations of half-a-century ago. That is understandable and inevitable. Rugby is now a professional sport and that brings with it advantages but also disadvantages. The age of club sides playing touring teams may unfortunately have passed forever but some things will never change. Cardiff Rugby Football Club is synonymous with setting standards, playing fair and promoting friendships. That is still the case and it is my privilege to welcome you all to our Gala Dinner this evening.*

**Bleddyn Williams**  
**President**  
**Cardiff Athletic Club**





## *Welcome*

*This evening's Gala Dinner is an occasion worthy of Cardiff Rugby Football Club's 125th Anniversary Season. Once again we are in the magnificent City Hall, and I thank the Lord Mayor, Russell Goodway, and the Chief Executive, Byron Davies, for making available this wonderful building. It was the venue for the Gala Dinners held in honour of the club in its 75th and Centenary Seasons and it is fitting that we are here to celebrate another special occasion.*

*I would like to make a special mention to SA Brain & Co. Limited, longstanding supporters and sponsors of the Club, for their particular involvement in this evening's event.*

*The people gathered here are a reminder of all that is good about our club. We have our friends from business and the community, the sporting fraternity, the club's members and supporters, and, of course, great players and clubmen of the past and present.*

*Pride of place must go to the players. Many of them turned out over 250 times for the first team and brought great honour to the club. A tradition down through the years was that when players reached the twilight of their careers they would return to where they had started their Blue and Black service, perhaps 10 years before – the Rags. It is a source of great pride to everyone at the club that the Rags have reappeared in the past two seasons in the shape of the Under-21 side – and what a success they have been.*

*Also with us this evening are over 20 past captains of the first team, from Dr Jack Matthews, who led the club in its first post-war season in 1945-46, to modern-day leaders such as Mike Hall, Hemi Taylor and Jonathan Humphreys. All of them are examples of what is best in our club. We place a great emphasis on family values because the commitment that the players give to the club would not be possible without the support and encouragement of their wives, parents and children.*

*This evening we are gathered here as an even bigger family, the family of Cardiff Rugby Football Club. As chairman it is my great privilege to welcome you all, to thank you for your support, and to wish you all a very happy evening.*

**Peter Thomas**  
**Chairman**

**Cardiff Rugby Football Club Ltd**

# Captains 1876-2002

1876-77 T.S. Donaldson-Selby  
 1877-78 E.C. Fry  
 1878-79 R.H. Foa  
 1879-80 W.D. Phillips  
 1880-81 W.D. Phillips  
 1881-82 B.E. Girling  
 1882-83 W.D. Phillips  
 1883-84 H.J. Simpson  
 1884-85 H.J. Simpson  
 1885-86 F.E. Hancock  
 1886-87 W.M. Douglas  
 1887-88 G.A. Young  
 1888-89 A.F. Hill  
 1889-90 C.S. Arthur  
 1890-91 W.E.O. Williams  
 1891-92 D.W. Evans  
 1892-93 T.W. Pearson  
 1893-94 N. Biggs  
 1894-95 A.F. Hill  
 1895-96 R.B. Sweet-Escott  
 1896-97 J.E. Elliott  
 1897-98 S. Biggs  
 1898-99 E. Gwyn Nicholls  
 1899-00 E. Gwyn Nicholls  
 1900-01 E. Gwyn Nicholls  
 1901-02 H.B. Winfield  
 1902-03 H.B. Winfield  
 1903-04 E. Gwyn Nicholls  
 1904-05 C.F. Biggs  
 1905-06 Percy F. Bush  
 1906-07 Percy F. Bush  
 1907-08 Rhys T. Gabe  
 1908-09 Percy F. Bush  
 1909-10 J.L. Williams  
 1910-11 R.A. Gibbs  
 1911-12 L.M. Dyke  
 1912-13 W. Spiller  
 1913-14 W.J. Jenkins  
 1919-20 F. Gaccon & W.J. Powell  
 1920-21 Clem Lewis  
 1921-22 R. A. Cornish

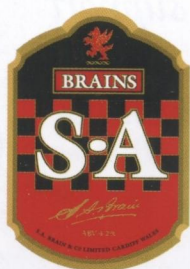
1922-23 Dr. T. Wallace  
 1923-24 Idris Richards  
 1924-25 T.A. Johnson  
 1925-26 D.E. Davies  
 1926-27 W.J. Delahay  
 1927-28 B.R. Turnbull  
 1928-29 B.O. Male  
 1929-30 S.C. Cravos  
 1930-31 B.R. Turnbull  
 1931-32 Howard Poole  
 1932-33 Tom Lewis  
 1933-34 Graham Jones &  
   R. Gabe-Jones  
 1934-35 A. Skym  
 1935-36 T. Stone  
 1936-37 L.M. Spence  
 1937-38 A.H. Jones  
 1938-39 Wilfred Wooller  
 1939-40 Wilfred Wooller  
 1945-46 Dr Jack Matthews  
 1946-47 Dr Jack Matthews  
 1947-48 Haydn Tanner  
 1948-49 Haydn Tanner  
 1949-50 B.L. Williams  
 1950-51 W.E. Tamplin  
 1951-52 Dr. Jack Matthews  
 1952-53 W. R. Willis  
 1953-54 B.L. Williams  
 1954-55 Sid Judd  
 1955-56 Malcolm Collins  
 1956-57 P.T. Goodfellow  
 1957-58 Eddie Thomas  
 1958-59 C.D. Williams  
 1959-60 G.T. Wells  
 1960-61 L.H. Williams  
 1961-62 L.H. Williams  
 1962-63 D.J. Hayward  
 1963-64 D.J. Hayward  
 1964-65 H.M. Roberts  
 1965-66 K.A. Rowlands  
 1966-67 K.A. Rowlands



1967-68 C.H. Norris  
 1968-69 C.H. Norris  
 1969-70 J.P.O'Shea  
 1970-71 John Hickey  
 1971-72 J.H. H. James  
 1972-73 G.B. Wallace  
 1973-74 W. Gary Davies  
 1974-75 Mervyn John  
 1975-76 T.G.R. Davies  
 1976-77 T.G.R. Davies  
 1977-78 T.G.R. Davies  
 1978-79 B.G. Nelves  
 1979-80 W. Gareth Davies  
 1980-81 J.P. Scott  
 1981-82 J.P. Scott  
 1982-83 J.P. Scott  
 1983-84 J.P. Scott  
 1984-85 T. D. Holmes  
 1985-86 A.J. Phillips  
 1986-87 A.J. Phillips  
 1987-88 R.L. Norster  
 1988-89 R.L. Norster  
 1989-90 Tim Crothers  
 1990-91 D.W. Evans  
 1991-92 D.W. Evans  
 1992-93 M.R. Hall  
 1993-94 M.R. Hall  
 1994-95 M.R. Hall  
 1995-96 H.T. Taylor  
 1996-97 H.T. Taylor  
 1997-98 J.M. Humphreys  
 1998-99 David Young  
 1999-00 David Young  
 2000-01 David Young  
 2001-02 David Young



## *This Evening's Awards*



### **Young Player of the Year**

*Sponsored by S A Brain & Co Limited*

*Presented by **Scott Waddington**  
Chief Executive*



WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND

### **Player of the Year**

*Sponsored by Watches of Switzerland*

*Presented by **Tony Watkins**  
Manager*

### **The First Winners**

*Martyn Williams  
was Player of the Year  
in 2000 and  
Rhys Williams  
the Young Player*



*We would like to thank our Club sponsor,  
SA Brain & Co. Limited, for their additional support  
during this special season. Our thanks also, to the  
following sponsors for their contribution this evening.*

Abbey National

Acorn Recruitment

Atlantic Property Developments

Miss K. Beard

Black Horse

Broomfield & Alexander

David Rogers Associates

Edward Davies Holdings

Edwards Geldard

Mr L. Francies

Grant Thornton

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Oasis Engineering

Owen Fuels

Ms J. Parker

Mr Alan Peterson

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Red Dragon FM

RPA

RST Consultancy

Ryburn Toyota

Ted Hopkins Tractor Hire

TSM

Watches of Switzerland

Mr V. Williams



## *Cardiff 2001-2002*



### **First XV Caps**

*Matt Allen  
Rob Appleyard  
Adam Jones  
Gary Powell  
Nicky Robinson  
Peter Rogers  
Anthony Sullivan*

### **Rags Caps**

*Owain Ashman  
Kenneth Fourie  
Scott Headington  
Dan McShane  
Ryan Powell  
Robin Sowden-Taylor  
Chris Stamatakis  
Luke Tait  
Geraint Williams*

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## *Menu*

*Timbale of Smoked Teifi Salmon with Cucumber & Cherry Tomatoes  
Drizzled with Balsamic Vinegar and a light Lemon Mayonnaise*



*Mignon of Welsh Black Beef wrapped in Llyn Marsh Bacon  
Served with a Madeira Sauce*

*Chef's selection of Fresh Market Vegetables*



*Individual Lemon Mousse*



*Cheese & Biscuit Selection*



*Coffee & Mints*





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# *Order Of Events*

***Toastmaster – Harry Poloway BEM***

***Master of Ceremonies – Alan Evans, Media Officer, Cardiff Rugby***



***Welcome – Peter Thomas***  
***Chairman, Cardiff RFC Ltd***



***Grace***

***Dr CD Williams***



***Dinner***



***Cap Presentations***



***Loyal Toast – Robert Lakin***  
***Chairman, Cardiff Rugby Committee***



***An Appreciation – The Captains***

***Proposed by Gareth Edwards***  
***Cardiff 1966-1978***



***Response by Cliff Morgan***  
***Cardiff 1949-1958***



***Awards***

***Young Player of the Year***  
***Sponsored by S A Brain & Co Limited***  
***Player of the Year***  
***Sponsored by Watches of Switzerland***



***Auction and Raffle***

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# *Famous Captains*

## *They Beat The Tourists*

### **Percy Bush**

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*Percy Frank Bush was one of the greatest players in the history of Cardiff, Welsh and British rugby. Born in 1879, he went with his clubmate Rhys Gabe on the British tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1904. A year later he was a member of the famous Wales side that beat the All Blacks at Cardiff Arms Park. He then led Cardiff to unprecedented victories over the Springboks in 1907 and Australia in 1908. By the end of his career he had scored 66 tries and 35 dropped goals in 171 games for the club.*

### **Haydn Tanner**

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*Haydn Tanner had the unique distinction of playing for Wales before and after World War 2. He was an 18-year-old scrum-half in both the Swansea and Wales sides that beat New Zealand in 1935, toured South Africa with the Lions three years later and, in 1946, joined Cardiff. He captained the club for two seasons, including the celebrated 1947-48 campaign when the side won 39 of its 41 fixtures. On 27 September 1947, Tanner's team beat the Wallabies 11-3 with tries by DH Jones and Cliff Davies and five points from the boot of Bill Tamplin.*

### **Bleddyn Williams**

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*With victories over the Springboks and the Wallabies already on Cardiff's honours board, the hat-trick was completed on 21 November 1953 when the club beat the All Blacks 8-3. It was one of the greatest days in Blue and Black history and the hero was captain Bleddyn Williams. He it was who had led his team out with his final plea of, "We have got to try things...if we fail, we fail, but we have got to be different" ringing in their ears. They did – Cardiff scored two thrilling tries in the first 20 minutes and held on in the dying moments as their line was under siege. Bleddyn was chaired off on the shoulders of his team-mates. A month later he completed a unique double by leading Wales to a test victory over New Zealand at Cardiff Arms Park.*

### **Eddie Thomas**

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*Back-row forward Eddie Thomas was one of the unsung heroes of the Cardiff team between 1952 and 1958. He played 217 games for the first team and in his final season was elected club captain. He was a successful leader with the team only losing seven of its 47 matches and winning the unofficial Club Championship. The highlight was yet another victory over the Wallabies on 14 December 1957. Thomas was from the Rhondda and it was another Rhondda Blue and Black, Gordon Wells, who stole the show with two tries in an outstanding individual performance. Cardiff won the game 14-11.*



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### **Keith Rowlands**

History repeated itself when Keith Rowlands also captained the club for two seasons and included the touring Wallabies among his scalps in his final season. The giant lock from West Wales played 149 games in six seasons at the club and won his Wales cap and selection for the Lions tour to South Africa in 1962. His career was cut cruelly short when he broke a leg playing against London Welsh in December 1966 but earlier in the same month he had become the fourth Cardiff captain to lead his side to glory against the Wallabies. Later, Rowlands became a distinguished administrator in Welsh and world rugby.

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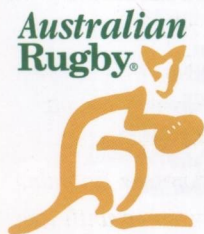
### **Gerald Davies**

Generally regarded among the greatest wings ever to play the game, Gerald Davies captained Cardiff for three consecutive seasons between September 1975 and his retirement in 1978. They were exciting times at the club with Davies instilling his beliefs and style into the side. Though he always claimed it would take at least two seasons, and possibly three, to achieve the success he was aiming for, yet another Cardiff victory over Australia came in his first months in office. The 1975 Wallabies were beaten 14-9, with the 20-year-old Gareth Davies kicking two penalties and scoring a try. Gerald went on to captain Cardiff in an auspicious Centenary Season.

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### **Alan Phillips**

Hooker Alan Phillips achieved a record in Cardiff colours that will probably never be beaten. Between 1973 and 1989 he played 470 games for the first team – and also scored an incredible 162 tries. He appeared in seven Welsh Cup Finals, winning five of them, and was club captain in 1985-86 and 1986-87. He also led the team, in Terry Holmes' absence through injury, in 1984 when the Wallabies were beaten yet again, this time 16-12.



# *Cardiff Rugby Hall Of Fame*

**E Gwyn Nicholls**  
**1892-1910**

242 games in 18 seasons  
111 tries 10 drop goals  
Club captain 1898-99, 1899-00, 1900-01, 1903-04  
24 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1899

**Dr Jack Matthews**  
**1945-1953**

180 games in 7 seasons  
54 tries  
Club captain 1945-46, 1946-47, 1951-52  
17 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1950

**Bleddyn Williams**  
**1945-1955**

283 games in 10 seasons  
185 tries  
Club captain 1949-50, 1953-54  
22 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1950

**Rex Willis**  
**1947-1958**

208 games in 11 seasons  
14 tries  
Club captain 1952-53  
21 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1950

**John Nelson**  
**1945-1959**

291 games in 13 seasons

**Cliff Morgan**  
**1949-1958**

202 games in 8 seasons  
38 tries  
29 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1955

**Gareth Griffiths**  
**1949-1960**

140 games in 11 seasons  
74 tries  
12 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1955

**Alun Priday**  
**1952-1966**

410 games in 14 seasons  
1799 points  
2 caps for Wales

**Lloyd Williams**  
**1952-1964**

310 games in 12 seasons  
21 tries  
Club captain 1960-61, 1961-62  
13 caps for Wales

**Howard Norris**  
**1958-1962**

413 games in 14 seasons  
14 tries  
Club captain 1967-68, 1968-69  
2 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1966

**Maurice Richards**  
**1963-1969**

171 games in 7 seasons  
97 tries  
9 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1968

**Gerald Davies**  
**1966-1978**

181 games in 8 seasons  
74 tries  
Club captain 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78  
46 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1968 and 1971

**Gareth Edwards**  
**1966-1978**

195 games in 12 seasons  
67 tries  
53 caps for Wales  
British Lion, 1968, 1971 and 1974

**Barry John**  
**1967-1972**

93 games in 5 seasons  
24 tries 30 drop goals  
25 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1968 and 1971





**Gareth Davies**  
**1974-1986**

326 games in 11 seasons  
3117 points (including 63 drop goals)  
Club captain 1979-80  
21 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1980

**Terry Holmes**  
**1975-1985**

193 games in 10 seasons  
142 tries  
Club captain 1984-85  
25 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1980 and 1983

**Alan Phillips**  
**1973-1987**

481 games in 15 seasons  
162 tries  
Club captain 1985-86, 1986-87  
18 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1980

**Robert Norster**  
**1978-1989**

253 games in 11 seasons  
22 tries  
Club captain 1987-88, 1988-89  
34 caps for Wales  
British Lion 1983 and 1989

**John Scott**  
**1978-1988**

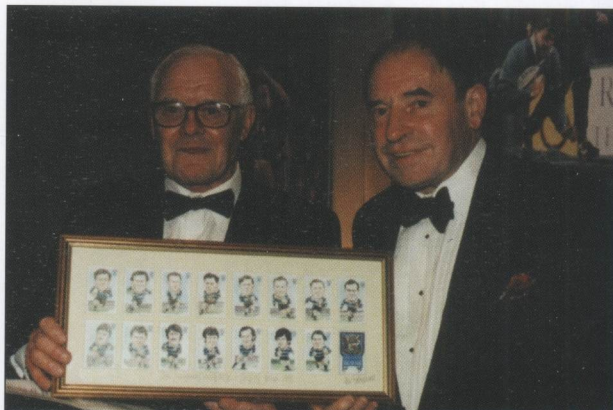
270 games in 10 seasons  
35 tries  
Club captain 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84  
34 caps for England

**Mike Rayer**  
**1985-2001**

369 games in 14 seasons  
1440 points (including 93 tries)  
21 caps for Wales



1999 - The First Inductees  
Back Row (from left): Alan Phillips, Alun Priday, Robert Norster, Gerald Davies, Lloyd Williams, John Nelson, Gareth Edwards, Rex Willis  
Front Row : Barry John, Howard Norris, Jack Matthews, Bleddyn Williams



2000-Cliff Morgan receives his award from Dr Jack Matthews



2001-Four New Inductees  
From left: Mike Rayer, Gareth Griffiths, John Scott and Maurice Richards

## *Landmark Captains*

1876-77 *The First Season* T S Donaldson Selby

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1900-01 *25 years* E Gwyn Nicholls

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1930-31 *50 years* B R Turnbull

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1951-52 *75 years* Dr Jack Matthews

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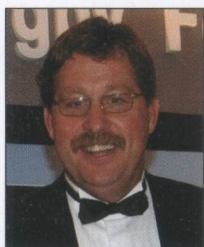
1976-77 *100 years* T G R Davies

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2001-02 *125 years* David Young

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## *They Won The Cup*



1981-1982-1984

**John Scott**



1986-1987

**Alan Phillips**



1994

**Mike Hall**

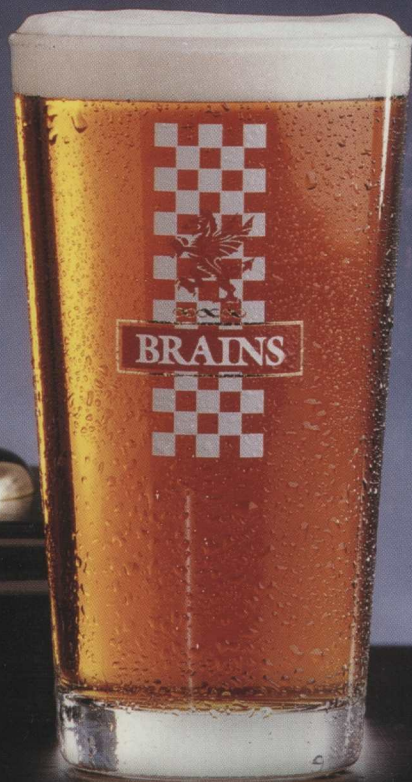


1997

**Hemi Taylor**



*Autographs*



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