

# Souvenir



**E. GWYN NICHOLLS (1875-1939)—**

Represented Wales as a Centre-threequarter  
against: ENGLAND 1897-8-9-1901-2-4-6  
SCOTLAND 1896-9-1900-1-2-6  
IRELAND 1896-8-9-1900-1-2-3-5-6  
NEW ZEALAND 1905 SOUTH AFRICA 1906

A Total of 24 appearances

## CARDIFF

v

## THE REST OF WALES

*in aid of the Gwyn Nicholls' Memorial Fund*

**CARDIFF ARMS PARK, 28th APRIL, 1949**

**Kick-Off 6.15 p.m.**

**E. GWYN NICHOLLS—**

played for the Cardiff Rugby Club as full-back and centre-threequarter from 1894 to 1907 Captained the Club in seasons 1898 - 1899 to 1900 - 1901

Was an International Referee: a member of Welsh Rugby Union from 1925 - 1931 and served on the "Big Five" Selection Committee.



FRANK TROTT



BLEDDYN WILLIAMS



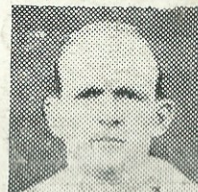
JACK MATTHEWS



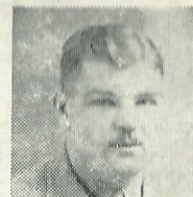
HAYDN TANNER (Capt.)



CLIFF DAVIES



GWYN EVANS



W. E. TAMPLIN



W. B. CLEAVER

# To-day's Match

BY THE EDITOR.

To-day's match is a historic one. The Cardiff Club meets, for the first time on record, the Rest of Wales; in a friendly way it will be a grand challenge match. Yet more important it will be a Memorial Match to a really great player—one of the greatest players and gentlemen ever to play Rugby Football.

Down through the years the Cardiff Club have stood firm for the highest ideals in sport. This season's team, so ably led by Haydn Tanner, have endeavoured to follow in the spirit fostered by Gwyn Nicholls and his men in the four years that he was captain of the Club.

It is fitting that Haydn Tanner and his men should play an important part in to-day's game for they have brought new honours to the Club in the last two years. Gwyn Nicholls, had he lived, would have been the first to have showered praise upon them for their displays.

When Major L. C. Watters, the former Secretary of the Cardiff Athletic Club, prior to his being called to the Colours in 1939, re-opened the Appeal Fund for the Gwyn Nicholls' Memorial, his committee decided to approach the Cardiff Rugby Club with the request that they might stage a match to raise a sum of money to bring the Fund up to the total required to purchase the Memorial Gates and set them up at the Quay-street/Westgate-street Entrance to the Arms Park.

The suggestion was readily agreed to, and Captain Geoffrey Crawshay was invited to select a team from the Rest of Wales to oppose Cardiff. The manner in which this great sportsman set himself to the task deserves the praise of all. The team representing the Rest of Wales to-day, is a true measure of the success attending his efforts.

The idea of producing a Souvenir Programme came rather late in the match arrangements and Mr. D. Morgan Rees and his printing staff came to our help most readily to complete to-day's effort to commemorate what should prove to be a great game.

The Cardiff side will be at full strength apart from Russell Burn and possibly Gwyn Evans. Haydn Tanner is fit again and he is joined by Jack Matthews, W. E. Tamplin and Terry Cook who have also been on the injured list. The Rest of Wales XV is a strong one and four players who were originally invited have had to decline for various reasons—they are Glyn Davies and John Gwilliam (Cambridge University), Ken Jones (Newport) and Roy Sutton (Swansea). Mr. Ivor David (Neath) is the referee, and thus the best in Wales will be on view and it should be a match worthy of the occasion to commemorate a great player. Finally, the Memorial Fund Committee wish to express their thanks to all followers who have supported the appeal.

# Gwyn Nicholls

(An appreciation by Rhys T. Gabe, who was his co-centre for Cardiff and Wales).

The younger generation might ask, "Why commemorate this old player out of all the old players who have distinguished themselves in Welsh football, and whose names have also been household words in Rugby homes?" The answer is, that Gwyn possessed that little extra something which put him on a pedestal above the others, and which made him, in my opinion, the best-ever centre threequarter that played for Wales. To me he was the Prince of Threequarters.

To know and appreciate fully his sterling qualities, one had to play along-side him. The onlooker saw a great deal, but only part of his activities. A colleague had the opportunity of seeing from the inside his true merit. I attribute the small measure of my early success directly to his acknowledged greatness, for he demanded such anxious watchfulness from his opponents that his colleagues were afforded much more scope and freedom. I found a difference when he was not at my side.

Off the field "G.N." was outstanding as a personality and a gentleman. To associate with him was indeed an honour and a tonic.

He was my hero long before I met him. As I came to know him more intimately—I played 12 times as his co-centre for Wales—my affection for him continued to increase, if that were possible.

"His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mix'd in him that Nature  
might stand up  
And say to all the world, This  
was a man'."

In repeating that quotation from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, I can think of no better way to pay my tribute to his manliness, his football skill, his endearing temperament and his outstanding good nature.

Gwyn died in the Spring of 1939, and had the war not broken out, the memorial would have been erected that year. But the project had to be suspended because of other matters more pressing to be attended to. To-day the Gwyn Nicholls' Memorial Fund Committee hope to fulfil their ambition and notch the total required to purchase and erect the Gates at the Quay-street/Westgate-street Entrance to the famous Cardiff Arms Park.

# Cardiff

(Blue and Black Jerseys and Blue Shorts).

## \* Internationals

1	*F. TROTT	...	...	...	Full Back
2	I. McJENNETT	...	...	...	Left Wing
3	*BLEDDYN WILLIAMS	...	...	...	Left Centre
4	*J. MATTHEWS	...	...	...	Right Centre
5	*T. COOK	...	...	...	Right Wing
6	*W. B. CLEAVER	...	...	...	Outside Half
7	*HAYDN TANNER (Captain)	...	...	...	Inside Half
Forwards—					
8	*CLIFF DAVIES				
9	J. R. PHILLIPS				
10	G. JENKINS				
11	S. JUDD				
12	*W. E. TAMPLIN				
13	*ELVET JONES				
14	J. D. NELSON				
15	*GWYN EVANS or W. DOUGLAS				

# Capt. Crawshay's Rest of Wales XV

(Maroon Jerseys, Navy Shorts).

Full Back	...	GERWYN WILLIAMS (London Welsh)	1
Right Wing	...	*W. MAJOR (Maesteg and Wales)	2
Right Centre	...	L. DAVIES (Swansea)	3
Left Centre	...	V. J. G. HARRISON (London Welsh)	4
Left Wing	...	J. EVANS (Aberavon)	5
Outside Half	...	R. BURNETT (Newport)	6
Inside Half	...	HAYDN THOMAS (Newport)	7
Forwards—			
		*DAI JONES (Swansea and Wales)	8
		R. CLARK (R.A.F.)	9
		*E. DAVIES (Aberavon and Wales)	10
		*D. HAYWARD (Newbridge and Wales)	11
		P. J. DAVIES (Newport)	12
		*W. R. CALE (Newbridge and Wales)	13
		E. FINNEY (Ebbw Vale)	14
		*P. STONE (Llanelly and Wales)	15

Referee—Mr. IVOR DAVID (Neath).

## Captain GEOFFREY CRAWSHAY

By J. B. G. THOMAS  
(Rugby Correspondent "Western Mail and Echo").



### A Pen Picture.

Few contemporary Welsh sportsmen have done more for the cause of exiled rugby men than Captain Geoffrey Cartland Hugh Crawshay. Much of his good work was done whilst serving as an officer in the Welsh Guards, where he formed the Welsh Guards Rugby Football Team, the Household Brigade Team and the Guards' Depot Rugby Football Team.

He brought many teams to Wales and became a familiar figure in Welsh sport during the 1920's. Besides taking a very active part in the social and political life of Wales, he will always be remembered for his sponsoring of the famous "Crawshay Rugby Tours" in Devon and Cornwall. Welsh players who were fortunate enough to travel on one or more of these,

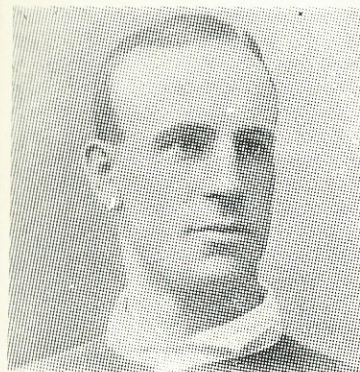
still speak of them with great pride and affection.

Therefore it comes as a fitting tribute to Captain Crawshay that he was invited to select the Rest of Wales XV which opposes the Cardiff team at the Cardiff Arms Park to-day in the Memorial Gates Match for the late Gwyn Nicholls. The players selected have been looking forward to appearing in his team, and it is a splendid side.

Captain Crawshay is the chairman of the Welsh Board of Health and president of the London Welsh Rugby Club. His enthusiasm for the game is infectious and his good humoured approach to players and officials makes one realise how full of friendships is the game of Rugby Football. For to-day's effort—thank you, Captain Crawshay on behalf of Welsh Rugby followers everywhere.

## Erith Gwyn Nicholls

### The Man Honoured To-day



*At the height of his playing career.*



*A few years before his death.*

### The Ground where he became the Idol.



*The Cardiff Arms Park.*