

CARDIFF V NEW ZEALAND

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SATURDAY 4 NOV., 1972 : KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m. Official Programme 10p

News Views Comments



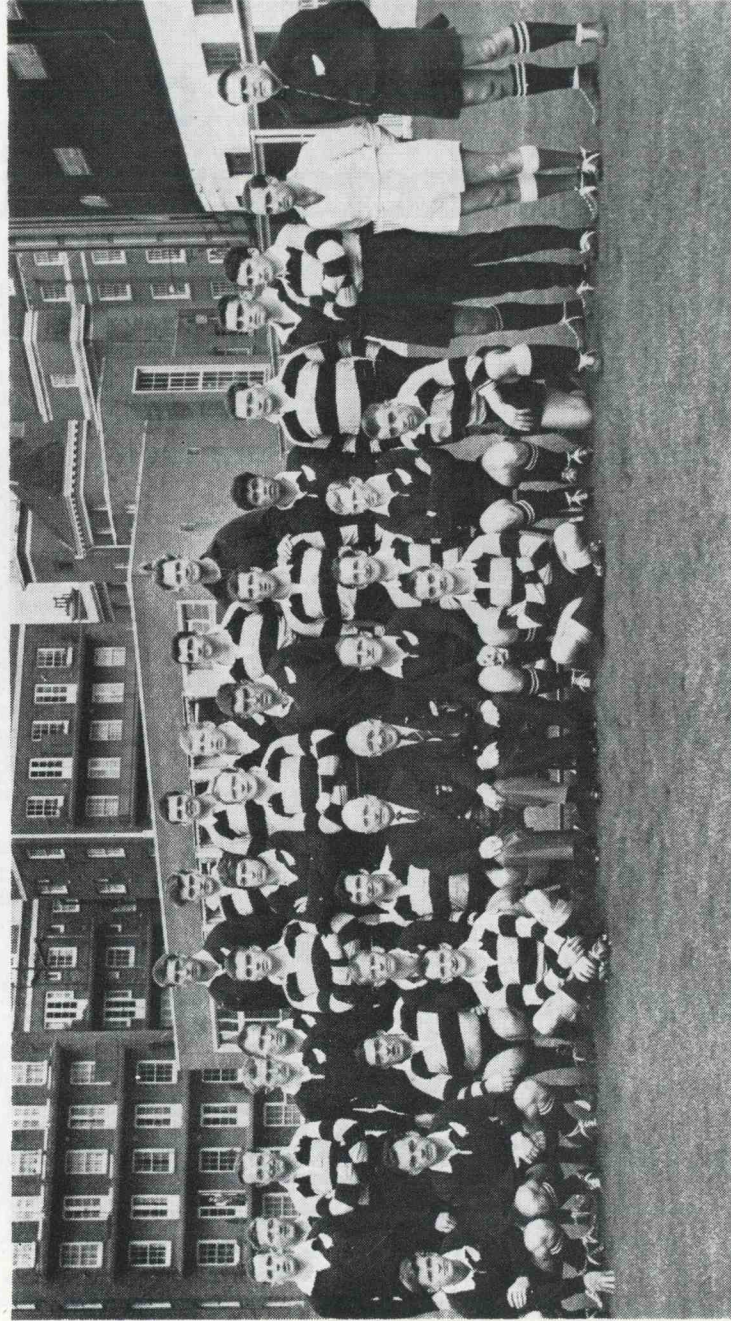
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Combined Cardiff/New Zealand Teams, 23rd November, 1963

Photo: A. E. Hansen

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The Spirit of New Zealand

By **J. B. G. Thomas**

Chief Rugby Writer, Western Mail

I first watched the All Blacks in action at Swansea in 1935 and last saw them, other than on this present tour, at Auckland in 1971 and they have always fascinated me. There is something special about their approach. In many ways, they are as fanatical about the game as the Welsh; as determined to succeed; as one-eyed, and as voluble in their comment.

They were last here in 1967 and, indeed, lucky to escape unbeaten, for East Wales achieved a 'moral' victory, and one feels that had it been a long tour, the side would have suffered defeat, perhaps more than once.

New Zealand have suffered only nine defeats during six official tours of Europe, which is quite a remarkable record. Six of these defeats, and two draws, occurred in Wales with the Welsh XV (3 times), Swansea, Cardiff and Newport achieving victories, and Swansea and East Wales sharing in hard fought drawn matches.

Cardiff have played them on five occasions, with a victory in 1953 under Bleddyn Williams, which was recalled again last night at the celebration dinner at Cardiff Castle. Members of the New Zealand party were there to reveal how close the relationship is, despite the keen rivalry, between New Zealanders and Welshmen. It is a strong bond, first forged in 1905, and strengthened by successive tours, which has never weakened even in the 'hottest' of matches. Even the controversial Welsh defeats of 1969 failed to disturb the link!

Welshmen will want to avenge 1969, and New Zealanders will anticipate this, but Cardiff in particular would like to succeed where they failed so narrowly in 1963. Their determination is admirable, but so will the All Blacks want to win all four matches this tour in Cardiff, for then they can say that they have avenged the 1971 Test Series defeat of the Welsh-dominated Lions!

To appreciate New Zealand rugby to the full, one has to travel from Invercargill to Blenheim; from Wellington to Whangarei, from Greymouth to Christchurch and Hawkes Bay to New Plymouth. We think we are mad about the game in Wales – but in New Zealand they are worse. There is no other conversation and the 'heavies' are even more plentiful and persistent than they are in Wales!

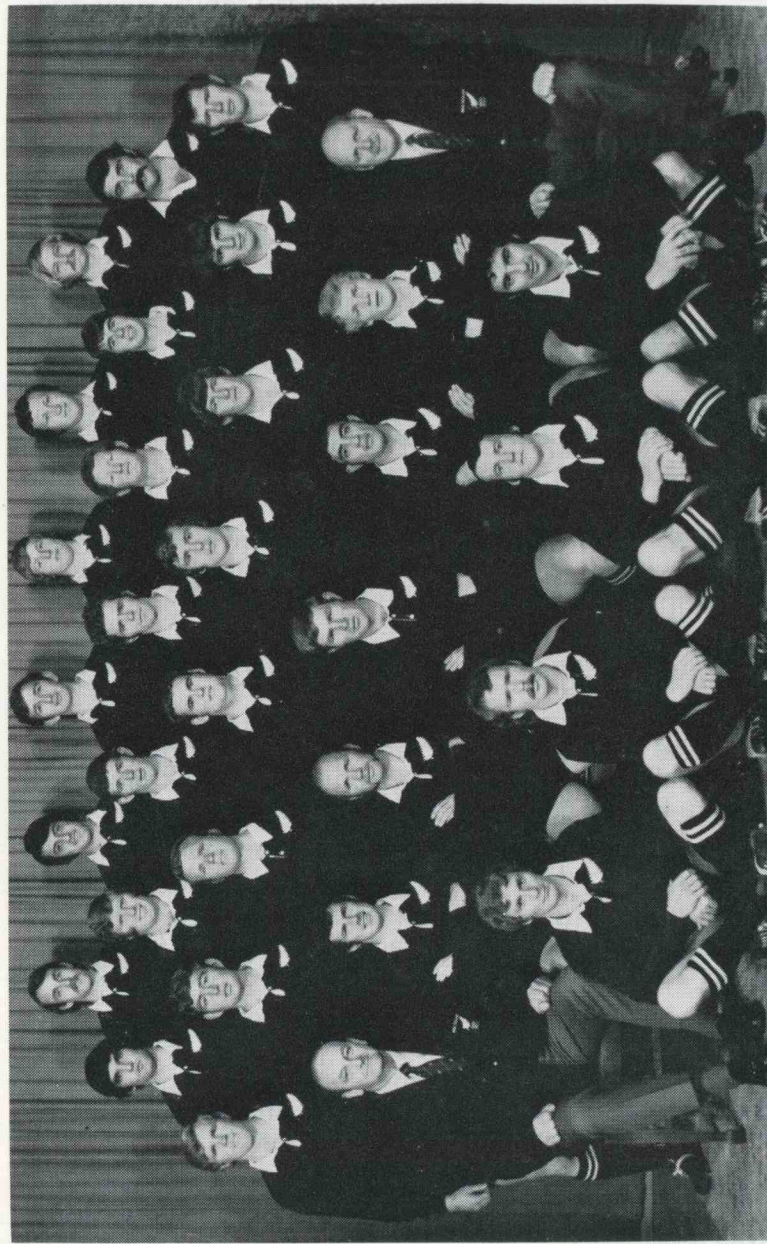
Yet New Zealanders are warm and generous people – more British than the British – proud, independent, tough and unyielding. Put them on a 'paddock' with two sets of goal posts and a ball, and they'll play from dawn to sunset.

They'll drink 'grog' at any hour – swap yarns – consume all the oysters and chips any pie cart can produce – eat giant steaks – gallop down deep apple pie and cream – and still talk through the night about rugby.

They are proud of their butter, milk, cream, cheese and meat. They argue that their sheep, fed on rich green pastures, produce the best wool – the golden fleece – and they believe Jack is as good as his master!

They drive old motor cars – they keep them going much longer than we do in Britain. They love parades and processions, especially on match days. Their children grow up more quickly than here, and are more independent, but the long hair fashion and hippy clothes are just beginning to 'take over'. They have more sandwich shops per square mile in their cities than anywhere else I know, and they love the cinema.

Yet it is still a man's country with 'racing, rugby, grog and women', in that order, so they always tell me! It is beautiful country – well worth a visit, but to see it properly – don't go in the rugby season, because you'll be caught up in the malady – rugby!



New Zealand in Britain 1972-73. Back row (left to right): R. E. Burgess, B. G. Williams, R. W. Norton, B. J. Robertson, K. K. Lambert, I. N. Stevens. Third row: R. M. Parkinson, J. D. Matheson, K. W. Stewart, R. A. Ulrich, A. J. Wyllie, M. Sayers, K. Murdoch. Second row: A. I. Scown, I. M. Eliason, H. H. McDonald, A. M. Haden, P. J. Whiting, A. R. Sutherland, G. J. Whiting, B. Holmes. Front row: E. L. Todd (manager), T. J. Morris, S. M. Going (vice-captain), I. A. Kirkpatrick (capt.), G. R. Skudder, I. A. Hurst, R. H. Duff (coach). In front: G. L. Colling, G. B. Batty, D. A. Hales, J. F. Karam.

Beware — All Blacks !

THE NEW ZEALAND VIEWPOINT

by **Bob Hewitt**

(Editor, *Rugby News*, Auckland)

When an international cable arrived at my home in Auckland last month requesting me to supply an article for the Cardiff Rugby programme it immediately stirred vivid memories.

Cardiff. The little bells rang and my mind flashed back to 1953 and the terrible morning the news came across the radio that the All Blacks had lost to Cardiff.

I was just a schoolboy then, and I recall my father's utter dismay (and disgust) that the All Blacks should lose to a club team.

What catastrophic news it was. It thrust my whole family into near mourning !

The sharemarket could crash, the Government could be overthrown, the third world war could break out, foot and mouth disease could erupt.

These things were comprehensible.

But the All Blacks losing to a club team ? Never !

From that moment on Cardiff held a special little spot in my heart even though, to be honest, I didn't then have the foggiest where it was geographically or know anything about it, except that it must have one hell of a Rugby team if it could beat the All Blacks !

I've since come to appreciate that Cardiff *is* one hell of a Rugby club, and that it's produced one hell of a great footballer, Barry John.

I was lucky enough to watch the 1971 Lions play their 25 matches in New Zealand last winter, and I saw Barry John score every one of his 183 points.

Yes, the Lions *were* as good as everyone says and, yes, Barry John *was* the greatest.

I've been involved in many arguments since the Lions tour — and by arguments I mean dinkum Kiwi shouting matches — about who was the more valuable player to the Lions, Barry John or Mike Gibson.

Probably, being good Welsh people you take it for granted that King John was tops.

Well, I agree with you.

But there are an awful lot of Kiwis, not necessarily of Irish strain, who reckon that Gibson was the top man.

Gibson, they say, was the steadying influence, the man who set the threequarters alight and who so superbly covered up any backline mistakes.

Yes, he was an invaluable tourist.

But Barry John — for my money — was the one player who contributed most to the All Blacks' downfall.

Take that first test. Never have I seen a player place a ball with such precision and make a fullback's life such utter misery.

'I swear' said Fergie McCormick after that match (and he did swear, too) 'that Barry John wore a halo that day.'

Because of the mess John made of Fergie, Fergie was dropped — a decision which robbed the All Blacks of considerable attacking power for the remainder of the series.

Barry John kicked the goals, made the breaks, never ever allowed himself to get caught (ensuring his forwards never had to retreat) and continued to kick impeccably . . . if never quite matching his first test effort.

And while on the subject of Barry John he didn't half stir up the Kiwi's blood with his television commentaries of the Wallabies' tests this winter.

It's one thing to bring a Kiwi's favourite team crashing down.

It's another to tell him his team's no good.

That's the sort of challenge that makes the All Blacks almost impossible to beat.



Read the report of today's match and the season's representative matches

PLUS

full coverage of the All Blacks tour in the

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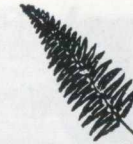
the national newspaper of Wales

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Cardiff

Blue and Black Jerseys



New Zealand

Black Jerseys

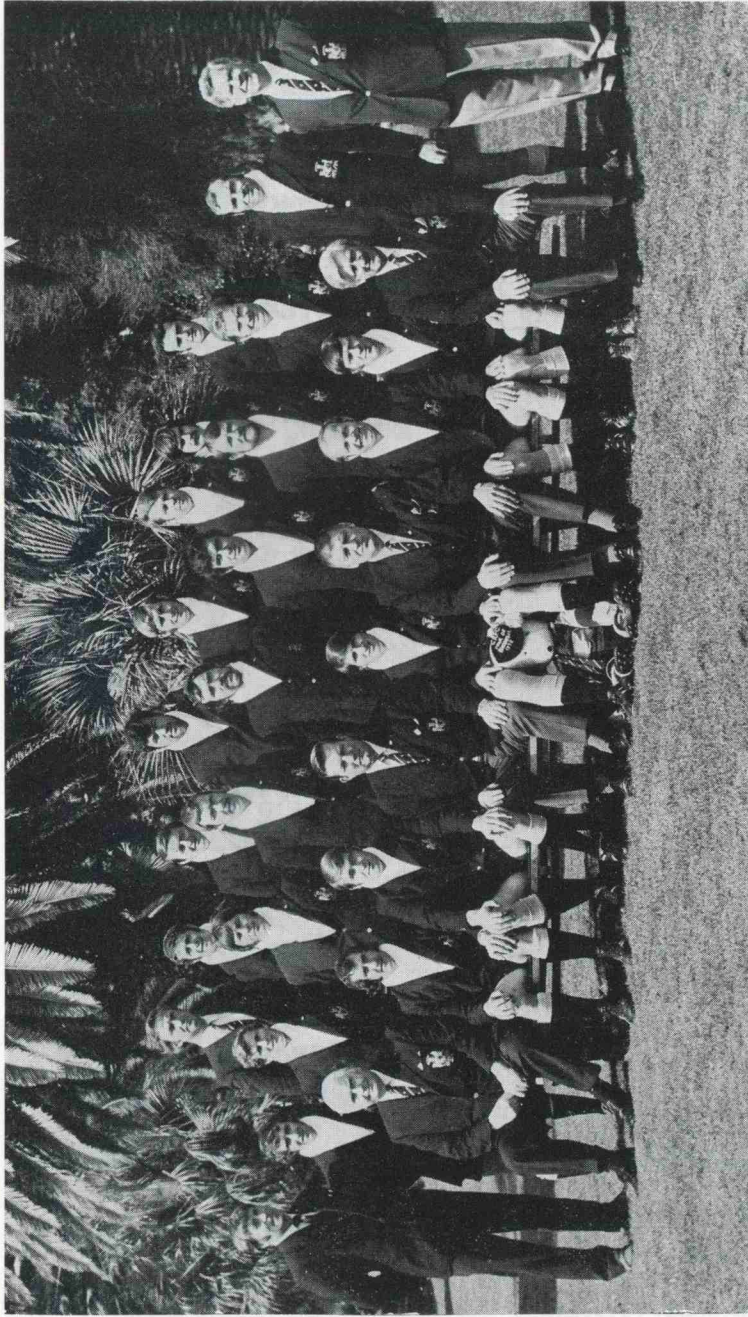
Full Back	15	John Davies	Trevor Morris
Right Wing	14	Wayne Lewis	Bryan Williams
Right Centre	13	Neil Williams	Bruce Robertson
Left Centre	12	Alex Finlayson	Mark Sayers
Left Wing	11	John Bevan	Grant Batty
Stand-off	10	Keith James	Bob Burgess
Scrum-half	9	Gareth Edwards	Sid Going
Prop	1	Mike Knill	Jeff Matheson
Hooker	2	Gary Davies	Tane Norton
Prop	3	Roger Beard	Keith Murdoch
Second Row	4	Ian Robinson	Hamish McDonald
Second Row	5	Lyn Baxter	Peter Whiting
Wing Forward	6	Roger Lane	Alex Wyllie
No. 8	8	Carl Smith	Bevan Holmes
Wing Forward	7	Mervyn John (Capt.)	Ian Kirkpatrick (capt.)

RESERVES: (Cardiff) **Lyn Jones, Gary Samuel, Tony Williams, John Hickey, John Manfield, Gerry Wallace**

(New Zealand) **Ron Urlich, Alan Sutherland, Graham Whiting, Ian Stevens, Ian Hurst**

Referee: **J. Young** (Scottish Rugby Union)

Touch Judges: **R. Lewis, Llangynwyd; R. C. Cooksley, Cardiff**



Cardiff touring team in Rhodesia 1971. Back row (left to right): D. J. Hayward, G. Samuel, P. L. Jones, M. Knill, N. Williams, B. Hurley, W. Lewis, J. Regan. Middle row: K. James (liaison officer), Gethin Edwards, J. Davies, R. Lane, I. Robinson, L. Baxter, P. Kallonas, R. Beard, M. John, J. Harding, T. Holley. Front row: H. Johnson, Gareth Edwards, A. Finlayson, C. T. Howe (manager), J. H. James (capt.), M. Collins, A. D. Williams, G. Davies, W. H. Wilkins.

Croeso i Seland Newydd **or** ***You're not much different*** ***from us***

by Dai Hayward

The late John F. Kennedy, President of the United States was assassinated on the same day that Cardiff played the All Blacks in 1963. In one of his speeches he pointed out that there are many things that divide nations and that we should therefore glory in the things that unite them.

Although New Zealand is so far around the world from Wales that if you go past it you are on your way back, the two nations are amazingly alike. The populations of both nations is approximately the same numerically, although New Zealanders have a bit more room to kick around in than we have. They also share a great love of sport – and also a great success at sport. It is just as well for the rest of the world that there are only five million Welshmen and New Zealanders around.

Both nations are divided into a positive North and South and sustain two languages and two cultures in close if not perfect harmony. (In Wales the difference is whether you like your signposts plain green or black and white.)

The great point of similarity and unity is above all else a great love of Rugby Football. It all started in 1905 with a win for Wales that has been disputed ever since. Generations of New Zealanders have visited the spot where R. G. Deans supposedly equalised for the All Blacks, and have lifted so much turf from that hallowed spot that it caused the old North Stand to subside, which is the real reason for the W.R.U. building the new one. Because of quarantine regulations the Customs men at Waitemata Harbour, Auckland, made them dump the lumps of soil on the quayside and in time it grew to such a size that Larry Ryan took a concession on it.

Since then, according to my reckoning, the All Blacks have played against Wales on the Arms Park five times, winning three and losing two, so Wales and New Zealand stand all square at the Arms Park. But that is another story. Last night at a banquet in Cardiff Castle a group of plumpish, balding, middle-aged men, ate too much, talked too much and drank too much. They used an hour and a half of their youth as an excuse – as they have been doing for the last

nineteen years. Last night another hundred and fifty men joined them, and since most of them paid for the privilege and since I was one of those who paid and thought it worth it, it must have been special. It was. The banquet was in honour of the Cardiff team that beat the All Blacks in 1953. The thirteen survivors of that team met old friends and adversaries. They all hoped that today they would initiate another 15 men to that exclusive club. My team in 1963 failed to qualify by two points. It is amazing how things change, depending on your point of view. To the ant, the chicken is a bloodthirsty predator and the lion a kindly giant. I must admit that although Wilson Whineray's must have been thought of in New Zealand as gentle giants my views used to be polarised nearer the ant's opinion of the chicken. Last night my views came nearer to its assessment of the lion. This fact and the fact that the banquet was held at all shows the esteem with which we in Wales hold the All Blacks, and is what international sport should be all about – but so rarely is.

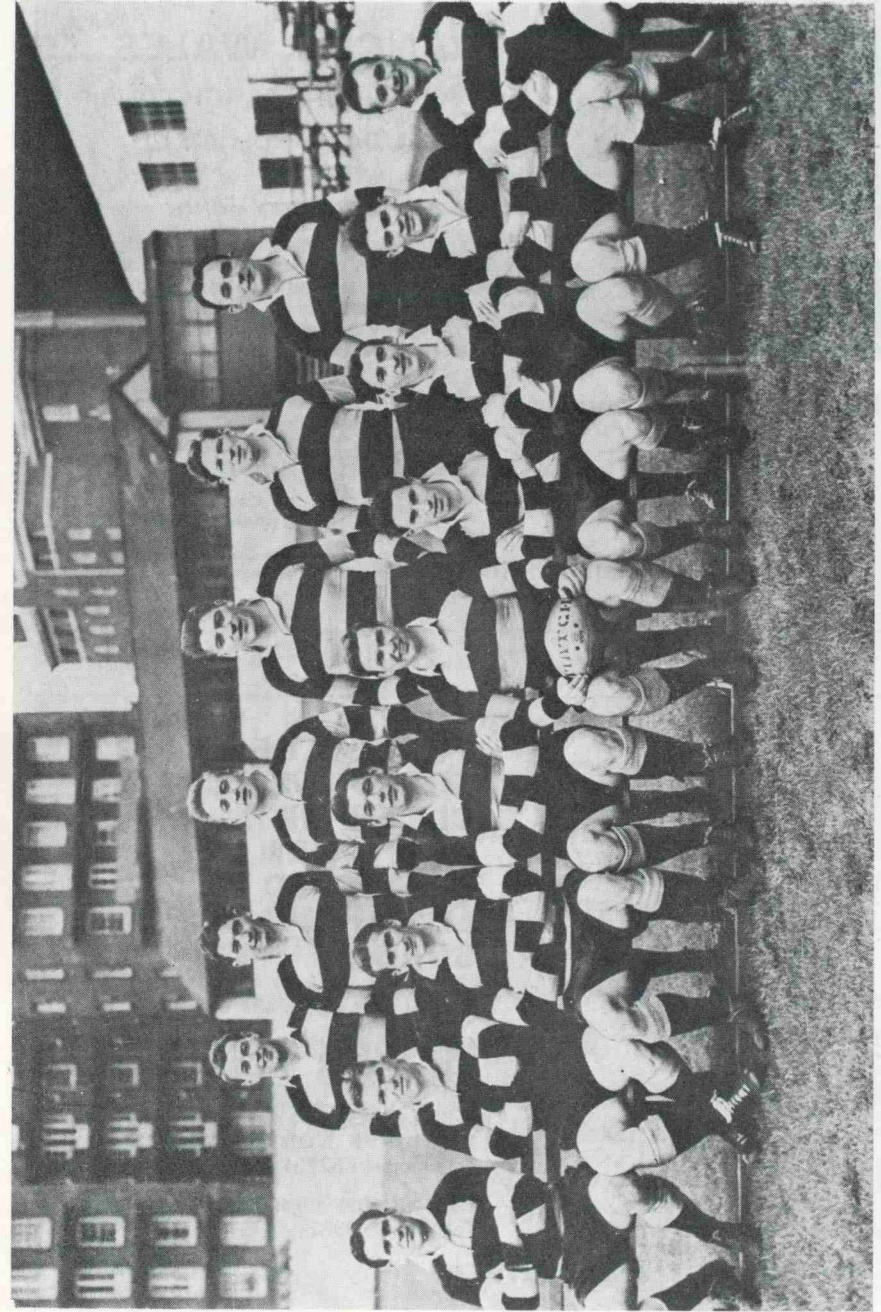
This article is all about common interests and similarities but it is only fair to point out one glaring difference. With the exception of Bryan Williams and possibly Trefor James Morris they are all of Scottish descent. One can almost hear the bagpipes and smell the haggis as one reads names like Ian Andrew Kirkpatrick, Hamish Hugh Macdonald, Bruce John Robertson and Ian Matheson Eliason.

Now I have considered this anomalously carefully and in the cause of greater harmony and closer ties between the two nations, I offer this suggestion. We in Wales should make a sacrifice. Despite the chaos it would cause, at first in the stands and on the terraces, we should not sing Calon Lân before the match, we should all do the Maori Haka. The youngsters would take to it very easily and it would keep older spectators warm.

In return I suggest that the All Blacks translate their names into Welsh. For example Ian Andrew Kirkpatrick should call himself Ianto Andreeas Llanbadrig. A name truly fit for a chief or captain. What about the poetry in Ianto ap Mathew ap Elias for Ian Matheson Eliason and Sieffre Dafydd ap Mathew for Jeffrey David Matheson, and with a little poetic licence and apologies to the Welsh Language Society what about Rhos Mohangel ap Parkin for Ross Michael Parkinson.

Far fetched? Not at all, the precedent has already been set. There is a New Zealand Rugby correspondent who glories in the name of Dai Hayward. Iesu Mawr!!

CROESO



Cardiff XV that beat 1953 All Blacks 8-3. Standing (left to right): G. Griffiths, J. Llewellyn, E. Thomas, M. Collins, J. D. Nelson, J. D. Evans. Seated: C. D. Williams, S. Bowes, W. R. Willis, S. Judd, B. L. Williams (capt.), C. Morgan, A. Thomas, G. Rowlands, G. Beekingham.



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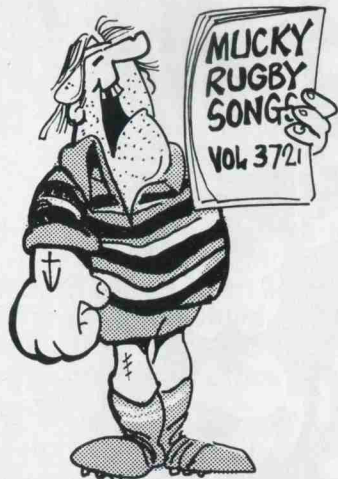
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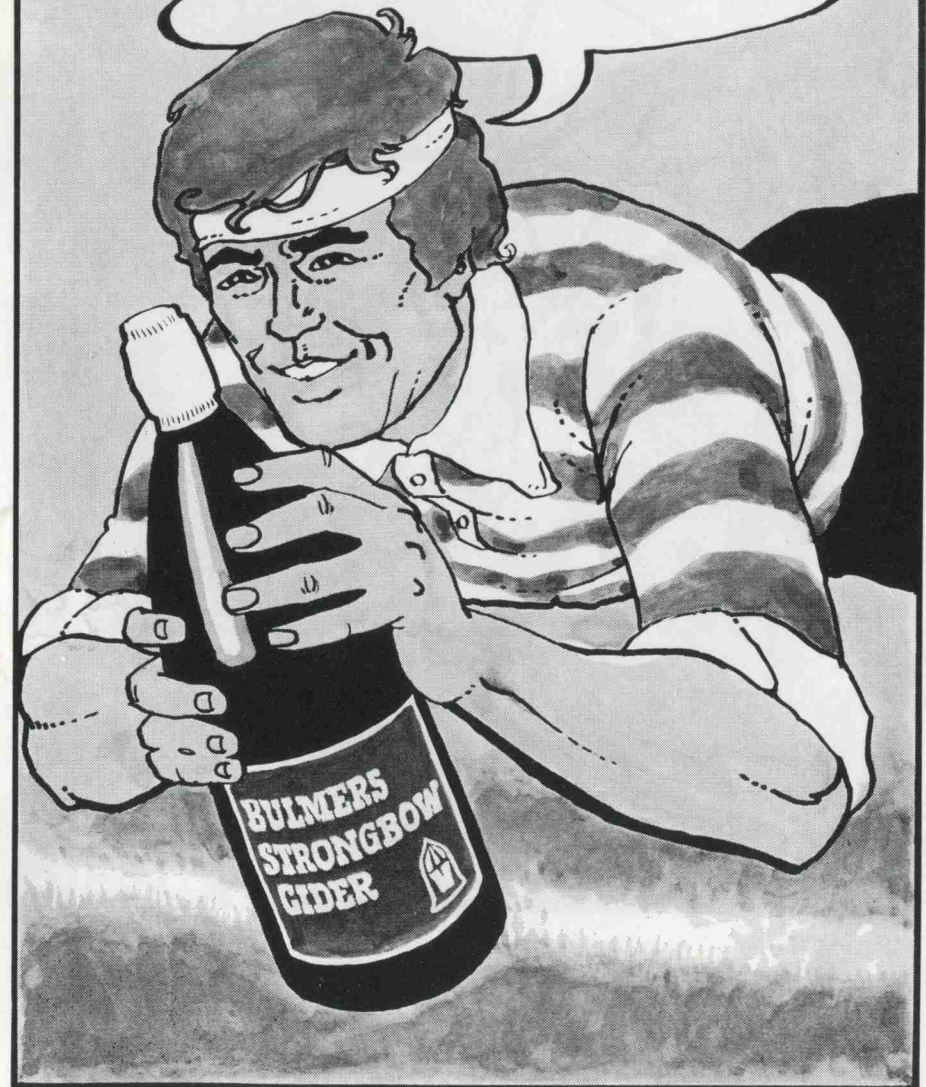
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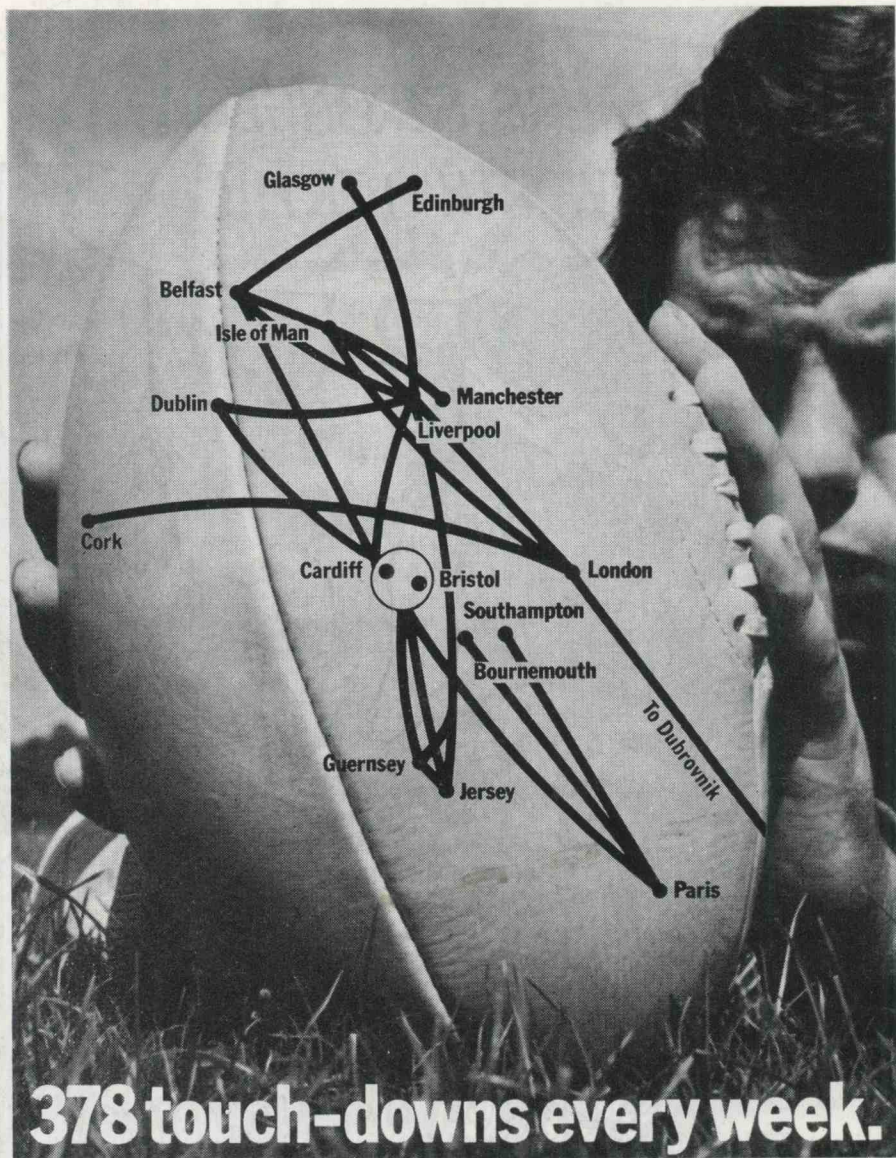
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