

CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

75th
ANNIVERSARY



The Glorious Years Between
1876-1951

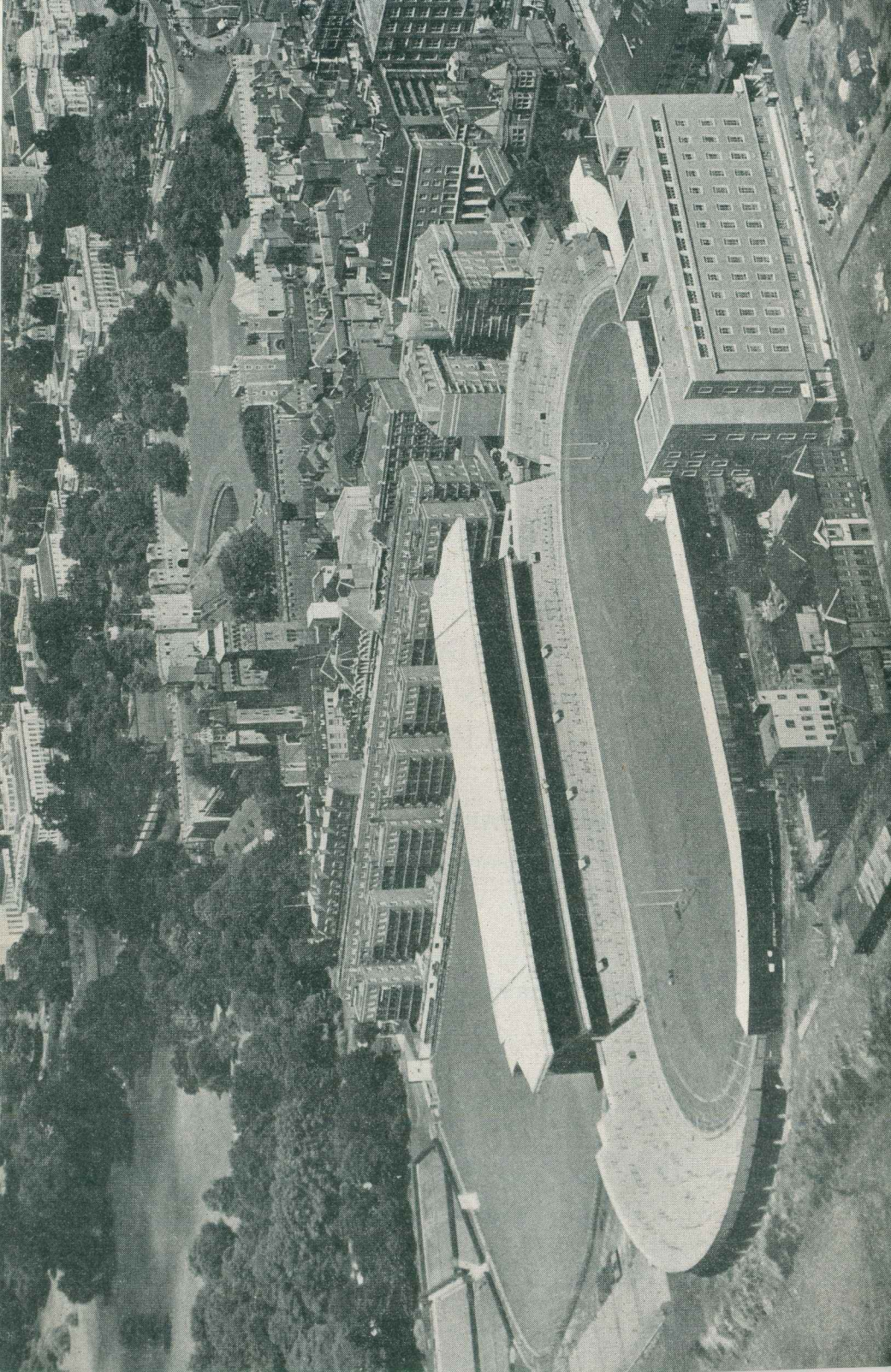
SOUVENIR of the
75th ANNIVERSARY
OF
CARDIFF
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

•
Commemoration Match
BRITISH TOURING TEAM, 1950
(LIONS)
v. CARDIFF

ARMS PARK, CARDIFF
22nd September 1951

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — ONE SHILLING

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Foreword

By D. Bernard Morgan



On Friday, 22nd September, 1876, at the Swiss Hall, Queen Street, Cardiff, the Cardiff Football Club was born as a consequence of the amalgamation of the Glamorgan and Wanderers Clubs. Today we celebrate the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of this happy event and in doing so, let us think with thanks and appreciation of Donaldson Selby, our First Captain; of E. C. Fry, our First Secretary, and of all who have followed them.

From the outset, the Cardiff Arms Park was our home, but what a contrast our modern International Arena, accommodating 55,000 people, provides with those days, when spectators were few, when no gate money was charged—its introduction in March, 1879, caused great resentment—and when in wet weather games were occasionally played on the neighbouring cricket field, with hurdles laid on the ground to keep the feet of the few spectators dry. Today we are the proud members and supporters not of a small insignificant local football club, but of one that is known and looked up to throughout the world wherever Rugby is played, and which by attaining this proud position has brought lustre and prestige to our great City. Wherever Rugby is mentioned, Cardiff springs to mind.

Our rise to fame and recognition from such humble origins, is not due to chance but to the high degree of skill and the extremely attractive style of play which our players have consistently maintained throughout the years; to our good sportsmanship on and off the field in good fortune and in bad, to the painstaking work behind the scenes by the Officers and Committee for the time being. Whatever the difficulty, whatever the problem, the need has always produced the man. But today we must not only commemorate the glorious past, we must also look to the future, a future which will be as glorious if we but remember the lesson those who have gone before us teach, that the whole essence of sportsmanship is to win generously and lose gracefully.



An Appreciation

By HUBERT JOHNSON,

Chairman, Cardiff R.F.C.

While this match and programme is to commemorate our 75 years of great Rugby History, I should like to point out that only the efforts of the present can make it a worthy celebration.

So a great welcome to the British Isles Rugby Team, probably the greatest ever touring side to be sent from our shores. Our gratitude, then, for visiting the Cardiff Arms Park to provide the feast of rugby played in the only spirit this occasion warrants.

There are many factors which make up a Rugby Club; I always think of them as a trinity: Players, Committee and Supporters; so may I pay tribute to you staunch, discerning, critical, but fair-minded rugby lovers who have turned up in your hundreds of thousands over 75 years to support your club. You are not the people who only want a ticket for an international match, you are the hard core of rugby football and by your appreciation and fair criticism, you have played a major part towards the high standard of the Cardiff Rugby Club. We will ever have regard for your pleasure and requirements.

A tribute to our captain Jack Mathews and his grand players who have proved so worthy in sportsmanship and ability of this occasion, also a word for our lion-hearted skipper of the famous "Rags," Stan Bowes and his merry men, always there in support in cheerful unselfishness, and to the Youth Team that may well prove our future.

A tribute to my colleagues of the committee, who in spite of always being on the receiving end of most of the kicks and well-meant criticisms, have never faltered in doing what they think best for the welfare of the club. A special word for the sub-committee that has organised this great occasion—Danny Davies, Brice Jenkins, Les Spence and Jack Matthews—they have done a great job. A very special word of appreciation to J. B. G. (Bryn) Thomas, Rugby expert of the "Western Mail," who has edited this programme and given freely of his advice and experience to the sub-committee, looking upon it as a pleasure to help the club.

The Rugby Club's appreciation to the President (D. Bernard Morgan), the Chairman of the Athletic Club (N. V. H. Riches) and their Committee for their full co-operation at all times.

Our gratitude also to all who have contributed to making this programme something I hope you will think worth reading and putting away in the old oak chest of memories.

Thanks to the unceasing labours of Mr. H. S. J. Holt (General Secretary), the Office, Lounge, and Ground Staffs.

The frame is ready for today's picture.

So after today, on to our centenary, always remembering that, "Those who build beneath the stars aim low."

Messages of Greeting

(Received from all parts of the world congratulating the Cardiff Club on their 75th Anniversary.)

From SIR DAVID ROCYN JONES, President of the Welsh Rugby Union.

"It gives me very great pleasure on behalf of the general committee of the Rugby Union and myself to congratulate the great Cardiff club on their 75th anniversary. One of the founders of the amateur handling code, their fame has spread to the four corners of the earth. They have been 75 glorious years and we look to them in the future to uphold the great traditions of the game."

* * *

From Colonel F. D. PRENTICE, Secretary, Rugby Football Union:

"It is with much pleasure I write to congratulate the Cardiff Rugby Football Club on its 75th Anniversary, and to wish the Club 'Many Happy Returns.'"

I have the most happy memories of visiting the Cardiff Ground during my playing days. The visit of the British Lions to play during your Anniversary Celebrations also brings back the happiest memories of the 1930 British Tour to New Zealand and Australia, when I had the great pleasure of having in my team such splendid Welsh players, including four from the Cardiff Club.

My best wishes for your continued success."

* * *

From the NEW ZEALAND RUGBY UNION

It is with great pleasure that we learn of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of your Club. The New Zealand Rugby Football Union sends its heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a successful celebration. New Zealand's memories of Cardiff are of great struggles with Welsh International and Club teams on every occasion on which an All Black Team has toured your land. In two years time our representatives will be with you again, and we know that, as always, our hardest matches will be at Cardiff.

The Lions, with a predominance of Welshmen, delighted thousands of New Zealanders last year. It is hoped that the 1953 All Blacks will thrill the Cardiff crowds as New Zealand was thrilled in 1950 by your men.

Our greetings to you after three quarters of a century of service to Rugby.

* * *

From the SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY FOOTBALL BOARD

"It is with real pleasure that I offer the Cardiff Rugby Football Club on behalf of the S.A.R.F. Board hearty congratulations on the celebration of its 75th anniversary. The fine traditions, the splendid achievements and the great contribution which your Club has made to our game are familiar to us in South Africa. Our touring team will be playing at Cardiff Arms Park three times during their coming visit to Great Britain and are looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones. We wish the Club continued prosperity and many more successes—but not necessarily such a one as they achieved when they beat our team 17-0 in 1906—when Gwyn Nicholls was in his most brilliant form."

* * *

From NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY UNION

It is with pleasure that my Union has the opportunity of sending greetings to your Club on its preparation of a souvenir programme to commemorate your 75th Anniversary.

We in Australia look back with pleasure upon the British Isles visit to our country in 1950, as players who will remain in our minds for many years to come.

On behalf of the President and Members of the New South Wales Rugby Union, please accept sincere congratulations and best wishes for your future.

* * *

From the BARBARIANS R.F.C. :

"All Barbarians and especially those who have toured with us in Wales join with our President, Emile de Lissa, myself and other officials in sending warmest greetings and good wishes in this 75th anniversary season of your famous club.

One reason why the Barbarian Football Club has become, to quote O. L. Owen, "a national institution," has undoubtedly been because of the happy and unbroken association with Cardiff since it began on March 31st, 1891, the season our club was formed.

Emile and myself have between us covered most of those 60 years as honorary secretaries of the 'Baa-Baa's' and we are very grateful for the ready assistance and co-operation we have always had from your club.

May this notable mile-stone in Cardiff's illustrious history be marked by further great achievements and the close link between our clubs grow stronger."

* * *

From NEWPORT R.F.C. :

"It is a great pleasure and privilege for the Newport Club to be able to offer to our greatest friends and hereditary foes at Cardiff our sincere congratulations on their completion of 75 years of distinguished service to Welsh and International Football. It is Newport's wish that the future will be as happy for Cardiff, for their opponents, and for Welsh Rugger, as the 75 years that have just passed."

* * *

From SWANSEA R.F.C. :

"To Cardiff Rugby Football Club, 'Makers of Rugby History'—Greetings and congratulations from your friendly rivals in the 'West' over the past seventy-five years—Swansea. What visions are conjured up by epic games with such illustrious names, to mention but a few—Nicholls, Winfield, Bush and Gabe. That you may go from victory to victory (except two) is the sincere wish of our Club, and all sportsmen of Swansea, on this your 75th birthday."

* * *

From NEATH R.F.C. :

"The Neath Club send heartiest greetings to the Cardiff Club on its 75th birthday.

This milestone in your club's history stirs up memories of an abundance of fine performances and the club's consistent efforts to preserve and enhance good sportsmanship and a high standard of play. We pay tribute to these qualities.

We recall with pleasure the long friendship between our two clubs, a friendship that Rugby Football has its own inimitable way of fostering. We cherish it and hope for its retention.

May the Cardiff Club prosper and maintain its reputable tradition."

* * *

From the ABERAVON CLUB and its SUPPORTERS :

"Sincere Congratulations. We look back with admiration upon the excellent record of the Cardiff Rugby Club.

Its record for a long period has been a glorious one and in keeping with the dignity of the City of Cardiff.

The record of playing successes has been outstanding, but of more importance still is the reputation the Club has built up in playing that open type of Rugby which has become associated with the Cardiff Club, together with the sporting qualities of its players.

This reputation has spread far beyond the confines of our little Country, and the names of many of your players are known and will never be forgotten throughout the Rugby world.

May the tradition created by these players be continued for all time. We wish the Club continued success."

* * *

From PONTYPOOL R.F.C. :

"May we offer to the great Cardiff Rugby Football Club sincere congratulations on their great and glorious achievements over the last 75 years, and we are proud to have had the privilege of associating with their Officials, Committee and Players, and enjoyed warm friendships since our Clubs first met.

Many Clubs, including Pontypool, will always be grateful for the kind way we have been treated with this grand Club; the standard of open Rugby played by them symbolises all that is best in our great game."

* * *

From PENARTH R.F.C. :

"We of the Penarth Club, have great pleasure in sending you our congratulations on your 75th birthday.

The Penarth Club has always had a kind and considerate neighbour. May this kindly feeling continue over the years."

* * *

From BRIDGEND R.F.C. :

"The Bridgend Rugby Football Club recalls with proud remembrance on this historic occasion, its long and close association with the Cardiff Club, and pays sincere tribute to all those stalwarts, past and present players, officials and loyal supporters alike who have, through the years, played their part in helping to make the name of Cardiff renowned throughout the whole Rugby world for its great traditions of sportsmanship and hospitality both on and off the field of play. We rejoice in the fact that the honour of leading the Cardiff Club in this truly Festival Season, will, for the third time in his career be in the capable hands of a son of Bridgend—Dr. Jack Matthews. Greetings from Bridgend on your 75th Anniversary, and the best of good fortune towards your rooth."

* * *

From STADE NANTAIS UNIVERSITE CLUB :

"For its technical value on the field of play and for the grand spirit and hearty friendship of its players during its 75 years of history, the Rugby world owes much to the Cardiff Rugby Football Club.

As for my own Club during its best seasons, it owes much to the Cardiff Club for the Percy Bush days and for its help towards the recovery of our prestige after the ravages of the last war.

Felicitations ! Vive Cardiff !"

* * *

From BRISTOL R.F.C. :

"Bristol send their greetings to one of the greatest—if not the greatest—Rugby Club in the British Isles. Your achievements over three-quarters of a century, will forever be written large in the history of our game, not only for the innumerable brilliant players that have worn the Cardiff jersey, but also for that indefinable rugger spirit, on and off the field, that has always been associated with and fostered by the Cardiff Club. May your greatness ever be undimmed."

* * *

From COVENTRY R.F.C.

"Greetings and congratulations from a 77 years old. May your efforts continue to be successful, except, of course, against Coventry R.F.C. ! From one of your friendliest rivals in innumerable enjoyable and spectacular games.

* * *

From the HARLEQUINS R.F.C. :

"Heartiest Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary from all members of the Harlequin Football Club, and our best wishes for sustained success in the future. We look forward to many more visits to Cardiff Arms Park."

* * *

From GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

"The Committee, players and members of the Gloucester R.F.C. join me in wishing the Cardiff R.F.C. congratulations and heartiest good wishes on your 75th birthday.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the first game between our clubs and throughout this long time, the fixtures have been eagerly looked forward to and played in a spirit of keen and friendly sportsmanship to the delight of our supporters.

May our long association continue indefinitely in friendship and rivalry."

* * *

From BLACKHEATH R.F.C.

"The Cardiff Arms Park holds many memories for past and contemporary rugby players and followers, and the members of the Club would like to take this opportunity of offering their best wishes to the Cardiff Rugby Football Club on their 75th Anniversary. They also hope that the Cardiff R.F.C. will have many more prosperous seasons and move from strength to strength.

We trust that the game in September is a success, and we shall look forward to meeting you later in the season."

* * *

From LLANELLY R.F.C.

"The Committee, Players, Members and all connected with the Llanelly Rugby Football Club, wish to convey to their old friends of the Cardiff Rugby Football Club hearty congratulations on its 75th Birthday and best wishes for a successful Anniversary.

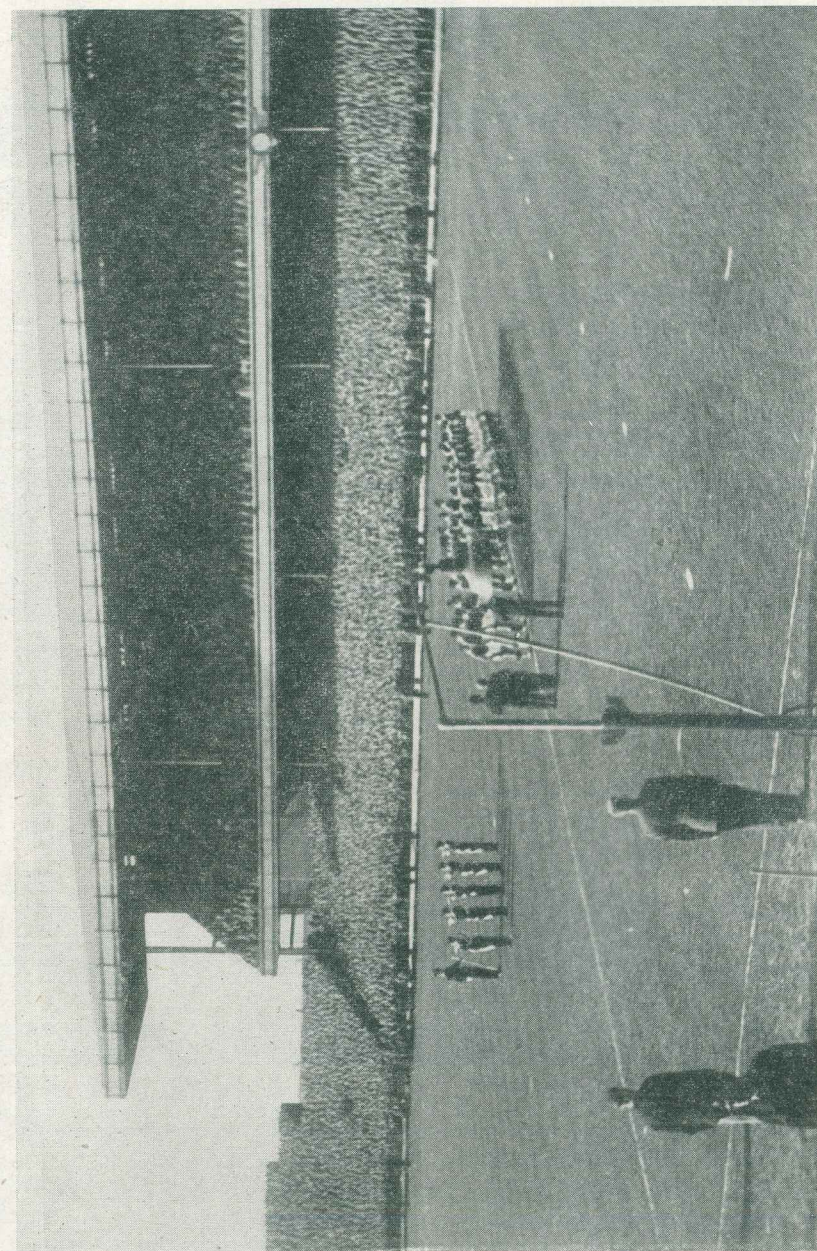
Your Club was well established, has grown in strength and produced administrators and footballers of repute, the name of Cardiff R.F.C. stands high in the affection and esteem of Rugby followers all over the World, and we in Llanelly join with them in expressing the hope that they will continue to earn the deserved reputation for skilful Rugby, Sportsmanship and Good Fellowship."

* * *

From Captain GEOFFREY CRAWSHAY :

"My earliest association with Cardiff R.F.C. dates from about 1911, when I was in Cardiff working for an exam. On the introduction of the late Captain Lionel Lindsay, then Chief Constable of Glamorgan, I was permitted to train on the Arms Park and my most vivid memory of that period is the glorious kipper teas that followed. I recollect on one occasion being invited by a stranger to me to join him in a run out with the ball. He started, and, try as I could, I failed to catch up with him. I was less surprised when I learnt later that my companion was Reggie Gibbs, the Cardiff and Welsh Wing ! My one regret is that war injuries—that is one reason—prevented my repaying so much kindness and hospitality by being of playing service to the Club. Nearly forty years later my Welsh XV was privileged to be the Club's opponents in the Gwyn Nicholls Memorial Match.

I am and always shall be in the debt of the Cardiff R.F.C., which over a long period has provided me with both hospitality and friends, and on the Club attaining its 75th Anniversary no one is more sincere in his congratulations."



CARDIFF ARMS PARK, MARCH, 1950.
On occasion of Wales v. France International Match.

I remember . . . !

FAMOUS CARDIFF PLAYERS RECALL FAMOUS MATCHES

Col. T. W. PEARSON

"On February 11th, 1893, my year as captain of Cardiff, we met and defeated Graham's Newport "invincible" team. They had gone through 1891-92 unbeaten and up to that day in February, 1893, were still unbeaten.

We won, and I remember as skipper being carried off the field amidst great excitement."

R. T. GABE

"Wales has never beaten the South Africans, but Cardiff has. That famous match took place on New Year's Day in 1907, on a ground which was a veritable quagmire. The Cardiff passing was truly wonderful and the truth of this can be believed by only those who saw it.

Two days before, the match against Old Merchant Taylors was abandoned because the ground was waterlogged. The try-getters against South Africa were Gwyn Nicholls, Reggie Gibbs, Johnny Williams, and myself. Bert Winfield kicked a penalty goal, the final score being 17 points to nil."

PERCY BUSH

"Transcending easily all of the hundreds of famous games, in which I had the privilege to sport the dear old 'Blue and Black,' the one against our most-looked-forward-to visitors of this season I rate our famous game against the original 'Springboks' on the Park, New Year's Day, 1907.

Up to that date, the South Africans had been beaten once only.

A month before the match, they had humiliated Wales at Swansea by 11 points to nil! So that our glorious victory not only put Wales back on the map, with a bang, but also proved my claim that the Welsh side at Swansea was badly selected. It was a dreadful day. Gales of wind and unceasing thick sheets of rain, from the river-end. This did not prevent our winning by 17 points to nil, and avenging the indignity placed upon Gwalia, at Swansea!

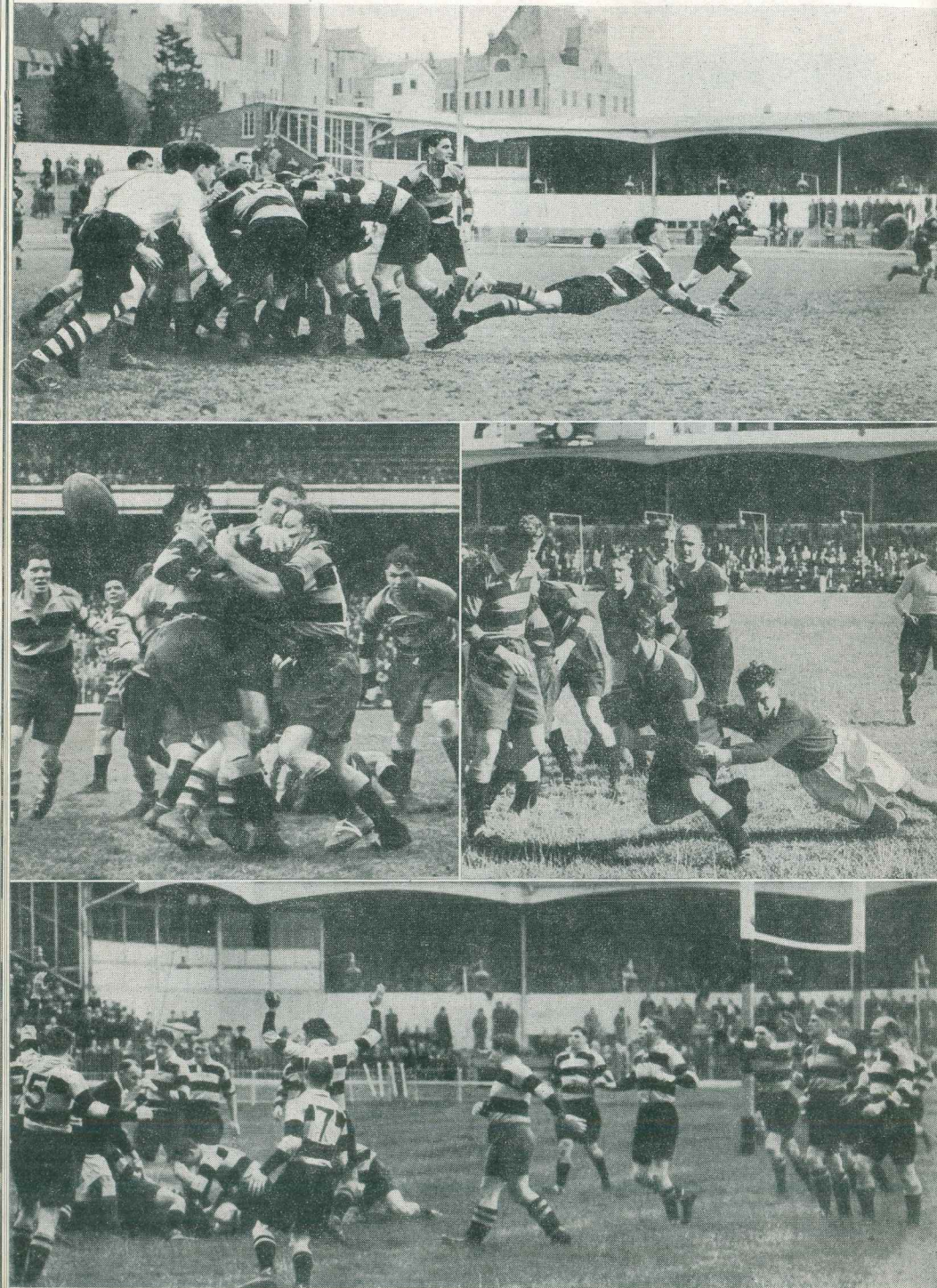
W. SPILLER

"I think my most famous match for Cardiff was against Newport away in 1909-10 season; Johnny Williams was captain. We broke Newport's record by 9 points to 8, and I scored three tries. We had a great reception by our supporters after the match and on our return to Cardiff we were shouldered from the station to the Queen's Hotel."

IDRIS RICHARDS

"The Editor asks for the most exciting match in which one has played. Perhaps not the most exciting, but certainly the most amusing, was at Headingly some years ago.

The late Tom Johnson was striving with might and main to break some record or other, and wished to score three tries. Arthur Cornish, of revered memory, promised to ply him with the ball. Running up to the full-back, Arthur shouted 'Here you are, Tom.' 'Codger' grabbed, executed one of his most spectacular dives, and scored without the ball, which Arthur carried under the posts. Johnson's comments, until he saw the humour of the situation, are best left to the imagination!"



D. E. DAVIES

" 'I remember you playing your first game for Cardiff, Danny.' Those, or words in similar strain, have been addressed to me scores of times since. Arthur Cornish was on crutches; I was 'A. N. Other' at stand-off; Clem Lewis went to centre-threequarter.

I remember signalling to Tom Johnson to come in closer, the Newport defence converging on him, and changing my direction to give an inside pass to Tommy Dean to score (that was a thrill!). I remember the superb close support of Clem Lewis (he scored three tries) and the many congratulations—from Newport's Jack Wetter, Jerry Shea and McPherson, too. It was Cardiff's first post-war victory over Newport—19-0."

From a break-through towards County Club end, with Tom Johnson expecting a pass, I put the Newport defence off balance, gave an inside pass to Tommy Dean to score (that was a thrill!). I remember the superb close support of Clem Lewis (he scored three tries) and the many congratulations—from Newport's Jack Wetter, Jerry Shea and McPherson, too. It was Cardiff's first post-war victory over Newport—19-0."

B. O. MALE

"Cardiff v. Waratahs, 1927. Ideal day. Cardiff take early lead with penalty goal. Game waxes fast and furious—both sides playing open football. Five minutes to go! Cardiff couple of points behind. Delahay held on the line. Ross fails to find touch. Cardiff full-back drops for goal from 45 yards. Breathless hush! Goal? No! Ball drops under bar. Waratahs race away to score. Time! What a climax to a memorable game."

Dr. T. WALLACE.

"The match I remember is a Cardiff v. Newport Match at Newport in 1923, not for the quality of the football but for the tenseness and excitement of the game, both for players and spectators.

Newport was unbeaten.

I was Captain and got my head cut open after about twenty minutes; I was taken away to be mended and returned to find Tom (Codger) Johnson being carried off severely injured and to find also that the late Arthur Cornish had scored a wonderful try."

BOB BARRELL

"It was my first season with Cardiff and the second game against the Maoris. They were leading five points to three and the game well advanced. Over I went for a try, but it was disallowed. That sporting Maori side won again and I was still without my first try."

JOHN ROBERTS

"On one occasion London Welsh came to Cardiff with an unbeaten record, but nothing daunted, Dr. W. G. Williams betted Clem Lewis 20 pints that Cardiff would win by 20 points. We duly obliged. On another occasion, we really looked as if we would beat Llanelli at Llanelli as we were leading 9-0 at half time.

It used to be said that if you passed the full back at Stradey the committee would trip you up with a walking stick, but on this occasion, they beat us 11-9 without outside assistance!

My most memorable games, however, were those against Cardiff and District each year. I was marked by a player from the dock area (and marked was the word) who butted me in the thighs with his head as soon as the ball arrived—the finest and cleanest tackler I ever met.

If later in the season I happened to score a lot of tries, my friend Ted Spillane used to say: 'We'll play the District next Saturday!'

HARRY BOWCOTT

"Against the Springboks in 1931, our surprising scrummaging superiority, our readiness to play open rugby, determined defence, a grand Cardiff try, Tommy Stone's magnificent conversion and South Africa's sound, if somewhat unattractive, all round display of aggressive football—these immediate recollections all combined to make this a memorable game. Not a victory, we lost by 13 pts. to 5, not even a moral victory, but assuredly a game enjoyed by all fortunate to play that perfect afternoon."

L. M. SPENCE

"It was the season 1935-36. Cardiff were playing the Barbarians who included fourteen internationals in their ranks. Their back division was as follows: V. G. J. Jenkins, C. V. Boyle, P. Cranmer, W. Wooller, K. C. Fyfe, Wilson Shaw, and W. R. Logan. The Cardiff backs were Tommy Stone, Arthur Bassett, J. J. Davies, D. Brown, G. Porter, A. H. Jones, and J. Bowcott. The "Bas-Baas" had not been defeated in Wales for six years, and with such a galaxy of talent at their disposal, it was merely a question of how many points they would score said the critics.

As history relates, Cardiff won the game by 7 points to 3. They scored a try by Bassett, who intercepted a pass from Wooller to Cranmer; a magnificent dropped goal by A. H. Jones, after Wooller had levelled the scores with a try. At the close a jubilant Tommy Stone was carried off shoulder high by enthusiastic spectators. Every man in the Cardiff side had played himself to a standstill."

ARCHIE SKYM

"One of the most enjoyable matches I played in was against Gloucester at the Arms Park on October 15th, 1932, when we won 16-0. Playing in the front row of a very good pack with Maurice Turnbull at our heels, I scored two tries. One of these came at the end of the match when I managed to keep up with A. H. Jones and Turnbull for half the length of the field before taking the final pass. I consider it the best game I played for the club, but I had my leg pulled for being too much of a wing forward!"

A. H. JONES

"I remember when I scored three tries against Newport from half-way, thanks to my centre, but I also recall even more vividly the game I lost against Aberavon. Owing to previous keen play it was the first game for a number of seasons and the team had been warned by the Committee that play was to be clean and open.

At half-time, as captain, I was approached by my forwards and asked if it would be in order for them to 'protect' themselves during the second half. I said 'No!'; if they gave it, we must take it. Thank goodness it turned out to be one of the best games seen there that year, although I lost the game by giving them a try in the last minute."

CLIFF JONES

"On Saturday, 27th November, 1937, Cardiff played at home the then powerful Swansea team which included, *inter alia*, the brilliant Tanner and Davies at half-back, Idwal Davies and Powell in the three-quarter line and Long, E. Morgan, Payne and Hunt in the forwards. The game was beautifully open and Cardiff won a resounding victory to the extent of 21 pts.-3. In retrospect, one wonders how WE overcame such formidable opposition by so great a margin—at the time, no doubt Swansea wondered how THEY were trounced. Such is the inherent beauty and glory of William Webb's legacy. Long may it flourish on the Arms Park and elsewhere."

WILFRED WOOLLER

"I would like to recall a great moment, and not a great game. It occurred in the last few seconds of a hard fought Cardiff/Swansea game at St. Helen's in 1938. Swansea led 6 points to 4. A scrum under the Swansea posts brought the code word "wrong" and Shorty Morgan at scrum half, ignoring the outhalf, flung a pass directly behind the scrum to me. I dropped for goal and the ball hit the upright, fell onto the crossbar, bounced twice and went over. The final whistle went. Cardiff had won by 8 points to 6."

W. B. CLEAVER

"In March 1948, the Welsh XV, at that time nick-named by many cynics in the West 'The Cardiff 2nd Team,' gave an ignominious display against France at St. Helens. The following Saturday, the entry of the Cardiff team on to Stradey Park to play Llanelli was greeted by caustic comments and ripe remarks.

That day the team played magnificently and the shouts of derision changed to shouts of acclaim. Apart from personal satisfaction and redemption, it proved to me that good rugby anywhere will overcome any prejudices."

Dr. JACK MATTHEWS

"This was my first season as captain (1945-46) and we had not been beaten until this meeting with the 'Kiwis.' The game was packed with thrills, our smaller pack playing an heroic game, and we three-quarters making every effort to score. We lost 3 points to nil—we might have drawn—but we failed with a penalty kick, a game and a kick I will always remember, and a capacity Arms Park crowd."

BLEDDYN WILLIAMS

"The final match of the 1947-48 season against Gloucester will stand in my memory as one of the happiest I played in. Before the game Cardiff needed 30 points to top the 800 mark and I needed three tries to equal the record of 40 held by Colonel Tommy Pearson. Through brilliant team work Cardiff scored 33 points and through the unselfishness of my colleagues I got four tries to create a new club record. It was a wonderful end to a wonderful season for all of us."

W. E. TAMPLIN

"I think the most famous match in which I played for Cardiff was that against the Australian Touring Team, at the Arms Park, on 27th September, 1947, in which we did what I should imagine every Welshman wanted us to do. It is very difficult to recall any individual effort on that day, because each and every one of the team played like men possessed.

The one thing I shall never forget was the look on Cliff Davies' face when, in the closing minutes of the game he hurled himself across the Australian goal-line with two or three Australians hanging on to him, and then getting up and saying, 'How's that Tanner, just to make sure!'"

HAYDN TANNER

"The Cardiff v. Australia game in 1947-48 season will always stand out in my mind as THE match as far as the Cardiff XV is concerned. First it was against a touring XV which is always an occasion; secondly, we were the first team to defeat them on their tour; and thirdly, it was during this game that the Cardiff XV really settled down into the brilliant combination that established a new record by scoring over 800 points in one season."

FRANK TROTT

"The five brilliant Cardiff Tourists had left on the first stage of their journey to New Zealand. The team on paper was weak and the Barbarians very strong. But a Cardiff side is always able to produce that something extra. The Baa-Baas with a gale behind them and the genius Lewis Jones as spearhead had a lead of 8 points at half-time. Then Cardiff took over and had the Internationals so rattled that one saw the strange spectacle of place-kicks to touch being taken. A Tamplin special and a brilliant Terry Cook try almost levelled the scores. The last ten minutes were some of the most exciting I have ever experienced. The final score was 8-6 to the Baa-Baas, but what a moral victory for the Blue and Blacks!"



PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS, 1947-48.

The Spirit of the Game

By J. B. G. Thomas

(Rugby Correspondent, "Western Mail.")



Col. T. W. PEARSON



H. B. WINFIELD



C. F. BIGGS

PAGE SIXTEEN

RUGBY Football is probably the greatest team game in the world and any one who has played the game has felt the thrill of running for the line, or putting in a long kick to touch. It is a game suited to the British temperament, and is probably as great a game throughout the Empire as cricket. It produces a sense of comradeship together with a keen sporting rivalry. It has a great after-the-match atmosphere, which is rarely found in any other sport. Finally, in Wales it is the game of the people.

Wherever one travels in the world, during peace or war, Welshmen will always find themselves associated with Rugby football. Most folk think of Wales as a country besmirched by coal mines and heavy industry, but what a pleasant surprise it is for them to visit our land and see the green hills and the attractive sports arenas. From the East to the West in South Wales there are numerous Rugby grounds.

Some set in the hollow of the valleys; others on the hill-tops, and some set in the heart of the towns, Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend, Aberavon, Neath, Swansea and Llanelly. There is something special to a Rugby follower in the words, Rodney Parade, Brewery Field, Talbot Athletic Ground, the Gnoll, Stradey Park, St. Helen's, and the Arms Park. These grounds have played a big part in the development of the Rugby game, and we must not forget Pontypool Park, Aber-tillery Park, Pandy Park, and the rest. They play a big part in evolving the true spirit of the game.

Today we pay homage to the Arms Park and the Cardiff Club. Many millions of Rugby followers must have visited the ground at one time or another to watch either Wales or Cardiff play. Many thousands of players known and unknown, have battled on its turf. All must have felt they were taking part in a special occasion and in some cases, a very great occasion. Whilst they might not have realised it, they were helping to increase the prestige of Wales as a Rugby nation, and the Cardiff Club as a great sporting institution.

Welshmen like to feel that the Arms Park, like St. Helen's, has something unique in its make-up. There is a rich atmosphere about it—a magnetism that captures the imagination—and a tradition that will never die.

Today the Cardiff Club is 75 years of age, but when the Club first started, the Arms Park was far from being the imposing arena it is now. It was what the New Zealanders would call a small "paddock." Now it is the largest ground in Wales, with a great double-decker stand. How long it will hold this record one cannot

say for St. Helen's is rapidly approaching its accommodation figure of 55,000! Still, who will argue that such friendly rivalry between two great Welsh centres is not good for the game?

When Donaldson Selby led his Cardiff team out to play against Swansea at the Arms Park on December 16th, 1876, little did he think that he was to head a long list of captains which included many great names.

He was the first captain of the Cardiff Club. Some 53 other players have followed him, in holding the honour. Their names make Rugby history, and it was they and the fellows playing with them who built up that spirit which now predominates in the Club and on the field of play. After Selby himself, came E. C. Fry, R. H. Foa, W. D. Phillips, B. E. Girling, and H. J. Simpson. Then came F. E. Hancock with his wonderful year and the introduction of the four three-quarter system, that was to revolutionise the game throughout the Empire.

In the next years came W. M. Douglas, C. A. Young, A. F. Hill, and C. S. Arthur, all great personalities who gave valuable service to the game as players and administrators.

They were followed by W. E. O. Williams, D. W. Evans, T. W. Pearson, the Biggs brothers, R. B. Sweet-Escott, and J. E. Elliot. In 1898, Gwyn Nicholls, greatest of them all, whose very personality embodied all that was great in the game, began his term of three successive years as captain. What a magnificent player he was and what fine fellows he had with him who were also to lead the Club—H. B. Winfield, Percy Bush, R. T. Gabe, and J. L. Williams.

Nicholls and Bush between them led the Club seven times in eleven years, and they had the true spirit of Rugby about them. Nicholls with his unobtrusive brilliance and Bush with his flamboyant air which fostered the daring and the glory of the unexpected.

On to the years of the first World War, with R. A. Gibbs, L. M. Dyke, W. Spiller, and W. J. Jenkins. Then an unhappy break before Gaccon and Powell shared it in 1919-20. They were followed by Clem Lewis, R. A. Cornish, Dr. T. Wallace and Idris Richards. Dr. Tom was greatly honoured and as a true Irishman he led the Club well and still plays his part today, putting back into the game something of the great enjoyment he got out of it.

Then came Tom "Codger" Johnson, as determined a tackler as the game has known, and D. E. "Danny" Davies who was a deceptive outside-half, and now keeper of the Club records; W. J. Delahay, equally at home at inside-half or centre; B. R. Turnbull, senior of several brothers who played for the Club; B. O. Male, S. C. Cravos, and Howard Poole.

In 1933-34 Graham Jones and Gabe-Jones shared the honour and they were followed by three stalwarts who were real club men in Archie Skym, Tommy Stone, and Les Spence. A. H. Jones came next and then the magnetic Wilfred Wooler. The latter was to have led the side in 1939-40, but Hitler declared War, and



P. F. BUSH



J. L. WILLIAMS



R. A. GIBBS



R. A. CORNISH

PAGE SEVENTEEN



Dr. T. WALLACE



T. JOHNSON



B. O. MALE



A. H. JONES



A. SKYM



W. WOOLLER



L. M. SPENCE



HADYN TANNER

Wooller and his men went off to fight. For a time they were able to assist the Club in carrying on, but when the battle became serious, it was left to the new and comparatively unknown players like J. Matthews, B. L. Williams, W. B. Cleaver, W. Darch, C. Davies, D. St. John Rees, Glyn and Hubert Jones. They did their job well and when the side started its first official season after the war—the tradition and spirit was there, besides the nucleus of a very good side.

Messrs. Riches, Cornish, and Jenkins ran the Club during the War, and it must have given them great delight to see the manner in which their boys ran up big scores in the immediate post-war years. Then came Haydn Tanner to follow Jack Matthews and the side enjoyed a record year in 1947-48. It was true Rugby with the ball more in the open than in the tight. Other Clubs shared in the delight. Newport, Swansea and Llanelly did not attempt to close the game up and spectators had their full value for money. Next came Bleddyn Williams, and last season, W. E. Tamplin. The tradition goes on and this season Jack Matthews returns to lead the Club for the third time.

May the Club have an enjoyable season. May the "Lions" set the tempo today. May they prepare the Cardiff Club for the sterner test that is to come on October 20th, when the South African Touring side visit the Arms Park. Memories of 1907 and the wonderful spirit of that great team should inspire the players of today. Win or lose it is the spirit of the game that matters in Rugby Union Football. March on, Cardiff!

A MESSAGE FROM

MR. N. V. HURRY RICHES,

Chairman of the Cardiff Athletic Club, who describes how the Club carried on during 1939-45.



When hostilities broke out, it was decided to suspend official rugby football activities. Following the departure of the General Secretary Mr. L. C. Watters to H. M. Forces, the late Arthur Cornish and myself agreed to act as Joint Hon. Secretaries of the Club. The Committee, due to calls of National Service had dwindled.

Only one member of the ground staff remained and there was no office staff.

We felt that where possible we should endeavour to have some rugger and agreed to carry on with unofficial games. There were two reasons which prompted us to take this decision:—

(1) To give some relaxation to the boys on leave from the forces.

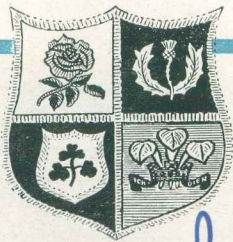
(2) That all net gate receipts should be for War Charities such as Red Cross, Burma Fund, etc.

Fixtures were arranged at very short notice, almost from week to week.

Thanks to the excellent support of Col. Idris Evans and other commanding officers in the vicinity we were fortunate as regards players. We had a number of youngsters from the Universities and the Forces who were to become the nucleus of the brilliant post war Cardiff team. The administrative duties of the Club were performed at all times of the day and night and frequently under most trying conditions. For some 18 months, we were visited by uninvited guests who even tried in vain to demolish the Cardiff Arms Park!

Arthur Cornish and I received splendid support from Brice Jenkins, and with the occasional assistance of members of the Committee who were on Defence Duties, we kept the game going. During the war years we were able to hand over to War Charities a sum of money which reached several thousands of pounds. We were also able to pay our way as an Athletic Club and meet current liabilities. In this respect, we had sound guidance from Mr. D. Bernard Morgan and Mr. Kenneth Ingledew.

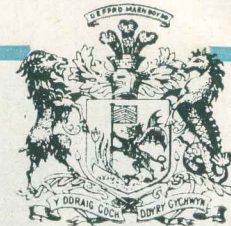
A band of ladies gave every possible assistance in arranging and providing a meal for the players after a game. It was hard work for the few to arrange games, but it brought enjoyment to many.



THE LIONS

The Anniversary Match THE TEAMS

CARDIFF



1. LEWIS JONES
(Devonport Services, Llanelli and Wales)

5. M. F. LANE
(U.C. Cork and Ireland)

9. N. J. HENDERSON
(Queen's University and Ireland)

6. M. C. THOMAS
(Devonport Services and Wales)

10. R. MACDONALD
(Edinburgh University and Scotland)

11. J. W. KYLE
(Queen's University and Ireland)

15. G. RIMMER
(Watford and England)

21. J. D. ROBINS (Birkenhead Park and Wales)

16. K. D. MULLEN (Old Belvedere and Ireland)

20. T. CLIFFORD (Young Munster and Ireland)

22. D. J. HAYWARD (Newbridge and Wales)

24. E. R. JOHN (Neath and Wales)

21. R. STEPHENS (Neath and Wales)

17. D. M. DAVIES (Somerset Police and Wales)

23. E. NELSON (Malone and Ireland)

25. V. G. ROBERTS (Penryn, Swansea and England)

30. J. S. MCCARTHY (Dolphin and Ireland)

26. P. W. KININMONTH (Richmond and Scotland)

Touch Judge :

(The Lions)

Full Backs

Three-Quarters

Right Wing

Left Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Centre

Right Centre

Left Wing

Right Wing

Halves

Outside Half

Inside Half

Forwards

Kick-off 3.30 p.m.

Referee :

Mr. IVOR DAVID
(Neath)

1. F. TROTT *

5. H. MORRIS *

4. B. L. WILLIAMS *

3. J. MATTHEWS *

2. A. THOMAS or D. MURPHY

6. C. MORGAN *

7. R. WILLIS *

8. G. JENKINS

9. G. BECKINGHAM or J. R. PHILLIPS

10. C. DAVIES *

11. W. E. TAMPLIN *

12. M. COLLINS

13. P. GOODFELLOW or J. D. NELSON

14. S. JUDD or E. L. HORSHALL *

15. C. D. WILLIAMS

* Internationals

Touch Judge : Mr. L. M. SPENCE

(Cardiff)



(Photograph by Frank Thompson, Crown Studios, Wellington, New Zealand.)

Back Row : G. M. BUDGE ; J. D. ROBINS ; R. MACDONALD ; J. S. MCCARTHY ; M. F. LANE ; D. M. DAVIES V. G. ROBERTS ;
 Second Row : M. C. THOMAS ; T. CLIFFORD ; G. W. NORTON ; J. E. NELSON ; D. J. HAYWARD ; J. R. G. STEPHENS ; E. R. JOHN ; R. T. EVANS ;
 Sitting : W. B. CLEAVER ; P. W. KININMONTH ; B. L. WILLIAMS (Vice-Capt.) ; Surgeon-Capt. (D) L. B. OSBORNE, R.N. (Hon. Manager) ;
 In Front : K. D. MULLEN (Captain) ; E. L. SAVAGE (Secretary) ; I. PREECE ; C. DAVIES ; J. MATTHEWS.
 Left (Inset) : A. W. BLACK ; J. W. KYLE ; W. R. WILLIS ; G. RIMMER.

The Happy Lions

An Appreciation:

By Surgeon-Capt. L. B. OSBORNE, R.N.

(Hon. Manager : B.T.R.U.T., 1950.)

Many, many congratulations to the Cardiff Club on this, their 75th Anniversary, and may they long continue to give to the Rugby world the inspiration of their open and adventurous style of play.

How can I, in a few sentences, describe the great spirit, the football genius and the comradeship of the Lions of 1950, or paint in words, all the joys and rich experiences of those unforgettable days in New Zealand and Australia.

Let me say this of them however : throughout that great tour, the Lions maintained their steadfast purpose to play open and adventurous football regardless of results ; that they and our fellow footballers in New Zealand and Australia together achieved brilliant progress in the game, which is the aim of all tours ; and finally that they strengthened and enriched the ties of race and friendship which bind our Commonwealth.

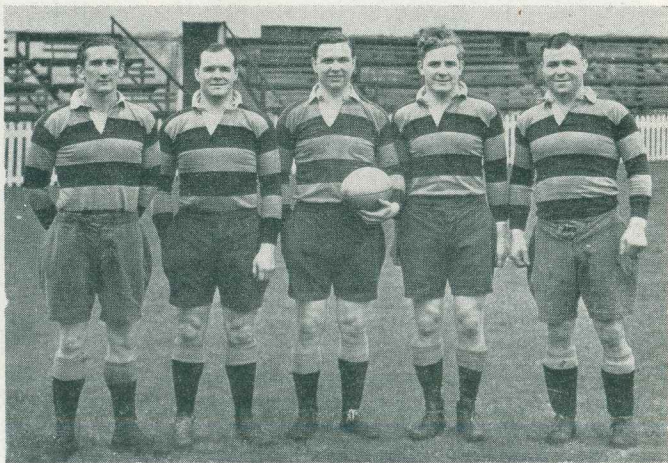
They were able to do these great things because of the matchless team spirit which arose through unselfishness and sportsmanship in their hearts.

They gave to New Zealand and Australia the fused football genius of our Home Countries, and their open friendliness. In return they received affection, regard and unsurpassed kindness.

The Lions will understand how I feel as I write this, far away and temporarily in one of H.M. ships in Korean waters. They will understand when I say that it would be well worth while travelling 12,000 miles just to see them all and to watch once more the brilliant and adventurous football which we all love.

THE BRITISH ISLES R.U. TOURING TEAM

Name	Position	Club	Country	Age	Height	Weight
A. W. BLACK	..	I.H. Edin. Univ.	Scotland	26	5 9	11 2
G. M. BUDGE	..	For. Edin. Wand.	Scotland	30	5 10½	13 7
W. B. CLEAVER	..	O.H. Cardiff	Wales	30	5 9	13 0
J. T. CLIFFORD	..	For. Munster	Ireland	27	5 9	14 7
C. DAVIES	..	For. Cardiff	Wales	31	5 9	13 7
D. M. DAVIES	..	For. Somerset Police	Wales	26	5 11	13 7
R. T. EVANS	..	For. Newport	Wales	30	6 0	13 7
D. J. HAYWARD	..	For. Newbridge	Wales	26	6 0	15 0
N. J. HENDERSON	..	C. Queen's Univ.	Ireland	23	5 11	13 2
E. R. JOHN	..	For. Neath	Wales	25	6 2	13 10
K. J. JONES	..	W. Newport	Wales	29	5 11	12 3
B. J. JONES	..	F.B. Devonport Serv.	Wales	20	5 10	12 6
P. W. KININMONTH	..	For. Richmond	Scotland	27	6 2	13 7
J. W. KYLE	..	O.H. Queen's Univ.	Ireland	25	5 8	12 0
M. F. LANE	..	W. Univ. Coll., Cork	Ireland	24	5 10½	11 10
J. MATTHEWS	..	C. Cardiff	Wales	31	5 8	14 0
J. S. MCCARTHY	..	For. Dolphin	Ireland	26	5 9	12 5
R. MACDONALD	..	C. Edin. Univ.	Scotland	23	5 10	12 7
J. W. MCKAY	..	For. Queen's Univ.	Ireland	30	5 11½	13 4
K. MULLEN (Capt.)	..	For. Old Belvedere	Ireland	24	5 9	12 9
J. E. NELSON	..	For. Malone	Ireland	30	6 1½	14 3
G. W. NORTON	..	F.B. Bective Rangers	Ireland	31	5 11	12 7
I. PREECE	..	O.H. Coventry	England	30	5 10	12 7
G. RIMMER	..	I.H. Waterloo	England	26	5 9	11 4
V. G. ROBERTS	..	For. Penryn	England	27	5 10½	12 12
J. D. ROBINS	..	For. Birkenhead	Wales	25	5 9	13 4
D. W. C. SMITH	..	W. London Scottish	Scotland	26	6 1	14 7
J. R. G. STEPHENS	..	For. Neath	Wales	29	6 2	15 0
M. C. THOMAS	..	C. Devonport Serv.	Wales	22	5 10	13 0
B. L. WILLIAMS (Vice-capt.)	..	C. Cardiff	Wales	28	5 10	13 7
W. R. WILLIS	..	I.H. Cardiff	Wales	26	5 10	12 0



Cardiff Players who toured New Zealand and Australia with the British Isles Rugby Team during 1950.
 REX WILLIS, JACK MATTHEWS, BLEDDYN WILLIAMS,
 BILLY CLEAVER, CLIFF DAVIES.

A Message from the Club's Secretary

To be the Hon. Secretary of the Cardiff Rugby Club is an honour and privilege, particularly in the year when the Club is celebrating its 75th birthday.

In an endeavour to fulfil the duties of Secretary efficiently, much leisure time is involved, sometimes six evenings a week and an occasional day out of one's official leave, but there is far more in it than that. You are in constant touch with your Chairman and members of the Committee, all anxious to ensure that the administration of the Club shall be carried out effectively without fear or favour.

Then there are the Players, to whom a Secretary must be something of a Quarter-Master Sergeant: one wants a new pair of boots, another says his knicks are too short or too long! Another wants you to write to his employer to see if he will grant him leave for the Cornish Tour. Yet another wants an extra complimentary ticket—his grandmother is coming to see her first game of rugby. If she enjoys it she will



sure to have a season ticket next season. These are just a few of the worries if you like to term them as such.

Rugby players with few exceptions are great sportsmen. Men who give and take hard knocks with a smile and when beaten by a better team accept defeat with honour and dignity. These are the men who make the best citizens and the finest diplomats for peace among all nations.

The "Rugby lesson" teaches them to accept their buffetings and set-backs in the commercial and industrial world with the same grace as they accept their bouquets.

To be associated with the members of the Cardiff Committee and the players of the Cardiff Club and to regard them as my friends is indeed an honour.

B. H. JENKINS.



CARDIFF XV v. AUSTRALIA, 1947.

(Cardiff won by 11 pts. to 3.)

A DAY TO REMEMBER!

By Reg Pelling

("News Chronicle")

BEING a Newportonian resident in Cardiff, it is only natural that I should take the keenest interest in clashes between two clubs with which I have long been associated.

But even if that were not so, I should always look back upon February 17th, 1951, as a day of days in Welsh Rugby—one which stands out in 25 years of writing upon the game here.

For that was the day when a world-record crowd of 48,500 attended at the Arms Park for a club game.

In a titanic game between two of the most polished and efficient club sides in the world, Newport beat Cardiff by eight points to three. Thirty mud-covered gladiators had played themselves almost to a standstill; it was all they could do to drag themselves wearily off the field at "no-side."

Public interest in the match was immense. By three o'clock on the *Monday* before the game was due to be played, every single ticket for the North stand (5,000 in all) had been sold. People had been queuing outside the Cardiff Athletic Club offices since very early in the morning. Then harassed club officials appealed, through the Press, "Please, no more 'phone calls; no more postal orders."

Yet next morning there was another deluge of letters asking for tickets. Coach parties wanted to come from all over South Wales, and even from as far off as Mitcham (Surrey) and Hampstead.

One organiser asked for 150 tickets to be sent (and he enclosed the money); many applied for batches of 30 or more. What a crowd-pulling set-up there was for this match.

Newport, invincible, had won 33 victories in a row. The last time they had been beaten was nearly twelve months previously (and that was by Cardiff!).

And what of Cardiff? Handicapped earlier on by the absence of five star players who had been to Australasia with the British touring team, they were now coming back to the peak of the form which had made them undisputed champions of Welsh Rugby since World War II.

Even the coming international match between Wales and Ireland was overshadowed by what could well have been the greatest club match of the decade. Indeed, the Welsh selectors turned up at the game in full force for it could well have solved some of their problems for them.

The official estimate of the crowd (and it had rained heavily for two hours beforehand) was 48,500. Gate receipts of £2,587 later confirmed this figure, easily a record for any club match ever played in any part of the world. Extra police were on duty to cope with the crush and, ten minutes before the start, they were almost ready to close the gates. This, as it transpired was not necessary.

After ten minutes of hectic, over-excited football, Ewart Tamplin played a captain's part in giving Cardiff the lead with a penalty goal, and this they clung to until the change-over. All the time the forwards were going at it hammer and tongs, but the high wind, and the high state of tension too, seemed to prevent either set of backs from operating with their customary smoothness and skill. Marking and tackling, of course, was terrific and the huge crowd was kept in a constant hubbub of excitement. The interval arrived, with Cardiff leading by a penalty goal to nil.

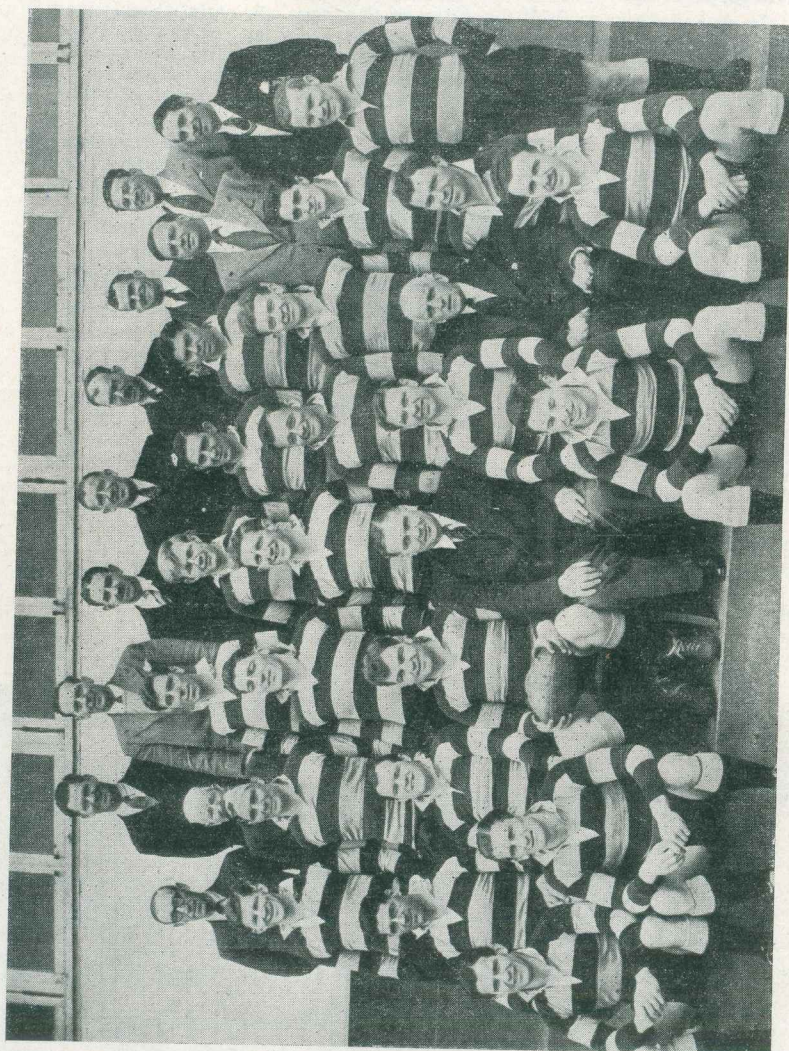
Ten minutes later, Newport were level, front-row forward Tom Sterry racing over after a short bout of close passing by the Newport forwards. This was just the incentive Newport needed, for they cut loose with a vengeance and Cardiff had to defend bravely to hold them at bay. What a fight it was!

In the background, always, was the deafening roars of the crowd—and then the scene darkened dramatically as threatening clouds gathered. Just as a terrific hailstorm broke over the ground, Newport went ahead. A hasty clearance kick which did not quite reach the touchline was the opportunity they had been seeking so eagerly. Profiting by it, John Lane, youthful left-winger was sent swaying and swerving over the Cardiff line.

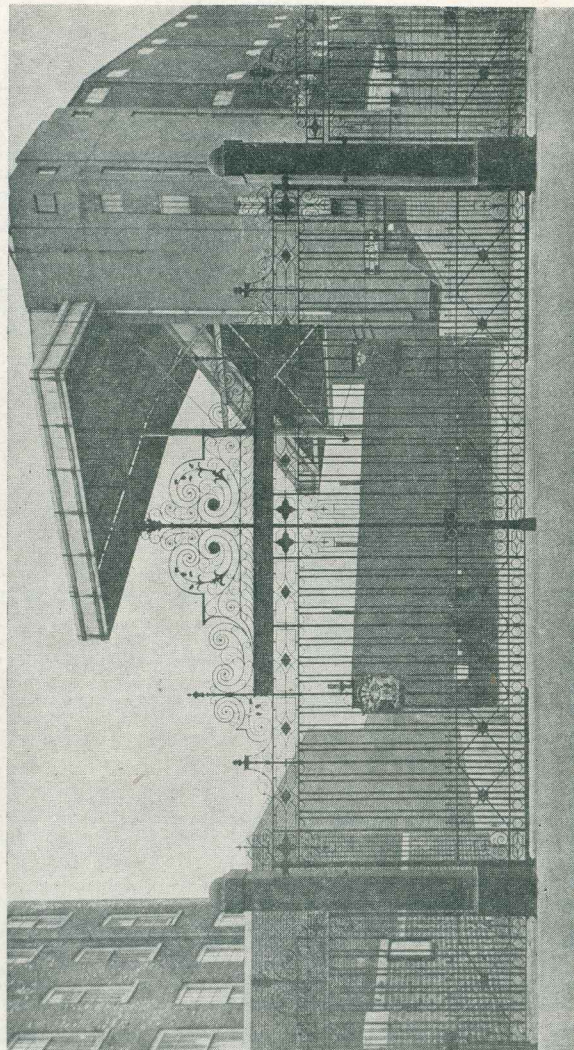
Big Ben Edwards converted and . . . "Then there was pandemonium; not only because of the score but because wind-driven hailstones which, for a few minutes were so tempestuous as to hold up the game's resumption." Some of the players threw themselves flat on the ground in the approved "blitz" manner; others tried vainly to shelter behind the goalposts!

The last thrill was when Cardiff's flier Haydn Morris was worked clear by the centres, and went flat-out in a tremendous burst for the corner. He looked a certain scorer—but Newport's Olympic sprinter, Ken Jones, hurled himself at Morris and threw him into touch at the corner flag. What a finale!

I shall never forget it . . .



PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS, 1950-51.



THE GWYN NICHOLLS MEMORIAL GATES
(Opened by Mr. R. T. Gabe, December 26th, 1949).

THE GWYN NICHOLLS MEMORIAL GATES

A TRIBUTE BY RHYS T. GABE

(Extracts from Speech made by the former Cardiff Captain and Welsh International, when the Memorial Gates were opened at Cardiff on December 26th, 1949.)

OF all the honours that have been thrust upon me for my activities in the field of sport, this honour conferred upon me today far transcends all the others put together—the honour of being privileged to open these magnificent gates, which have been erected to perpetuate the memory of my one-time hero—and my very intimate friend, Erith Gwyn Nicholls, who, in my view, was the greatest and most colourful figure ever associated with Welsh Rugby football.

Now the younger generation might well ask—the older generation who saw him, already know—Why commemorate this one player out of all the old players who have distinguished themselves in Welsh football and whose names have also been household ones in Rugby homes?

The answer is that Gwyn Nicholls possessed some indefinable glamour which the others didn't possess to the same degree and which put him on a pedestal above the others to be recognised as the best-ever who played for Cardiff and Wales. He was referred to as the "Prince of Three-quarters," and to that appellation, we, who saw him, played with him and knew him, will readily assent.

So long as the Memorial Gates at Lord's and the Oval endure, the greatness of W. G. Grace and Jack Hobbs will not be forgotten in the cricketing world, and likewise these Memorial Gates will stand as a permanent reminder of the incomparable Gwyn Nicholls in the Rugby World.

Gwyn was the most complete footballer I ever saw, equally strong in every department of the game. Everything he did bore the hallmark of real

class. His abiding ambition was to carve openings for his wing or his centre to carry on. He was never selfish and if anything, he might have been occasionally unselfish to a fault. He derived as much of a thrill making a try for his colleague as if he scored himself.

Reverting for a moment to what has come to be called the Golden Era of Welsh football—the era in which Gwyn played such an important part, Wales won 21 consecutive matches in Wales



R. T. GABE



E. GWYN NICHOLLS

and won the Triple Crown, six times from 1900 to 1911.

What was the secret of our success? Wales did not possess better players individually than the other Countries, and not better players than we have had since in Wales, but they were far more competent handlers, and better as a team in consequence and that was the secret.

On the Plaque on the Memorial Gates, it is recorded that he played in 24 International matches. Had there been no dispute with Scotland and Ireland when matches were cancelled for two years, and had he not fractured a collarbone on two occasions, this number might well have been 34.

I conclude by exclaiming—What a man! What a player!

(Following the death of Mr. Nicholls in 1939 a Memorial Committee was set up to decide upon the best manner of paying a lasting tribute to his genius. Mr. N. V. Hurry Riches was chairman, Mr. L. C. Watters the honorary secretary, and Councillor Ewart Pearce the hon. treasurer, but progress was delayed by the World War II. However, after the War the Fund was closed and a magnificent set of Memorial Gates erected at the Quay Street—Westgate Street Entrance to the Arms Park in December, 1949.)

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS—A BRIEF SURVEY AND A FEW STATISTICS

By D. E. (DANNY) DAVIES

Space will not allow anything like a complete review of the Club's progress from the date of its formation, Friday, 22nd September, 1876.

As a man is often judged by the friends he keeps, I should have liked to mention in sequence of years, the friends this great Club has met, the work of our early pioneers or builders, the results of their efforts, interesting facts and features, supporting statistics, and the part played by our many, and brilliant players.



D. E. "Danny" DAVIES

In its 75 years, the Cardiff Club has met a legion of Clubs of the Rugby Football World, on the historic Cardiff Arms Park or on the fields of our opponents in the British Isles and in France. Some of those Clubs have fallen into obscurity, some have been forced by circumstances of environment and town development to a lower degree of status whilst still reserving their age-long names and foundation; others have grown in stature and tradition and continue to maintain "first class" status.

Cardiff's reputation rests on the friendships it has maintained with those Clubs, and the traditionally open type of Rugby Football it has always tried to give them. Broadly, the Club's history might be divided into Seven eras:

(1) The Foundation years	1876-77—1884-85
(2) The Build-up	1885-86—
(3) The Golden or Supreme period	1908-09
(4) Static and First World War period	1909-10—1908-19
(5) The Restoration or Rebuilding years	1919-20—1935-36
(6) Striking years	1936-37—1938-39
(7) The Second Golden or Supreme period	1945-46—1950-51

In the Foundation years the fixture list increased from 3 Clubs in 1876-87, to 27 in "Hancock's Year" of 1885-86.

A Second XV was organised in 1881-2, and in two of the three seasons 1884-87, under the captaincy of Dan E. Jones, were unbeaten. The premiers competed for the South Wales Challenge Cup until 1882-83, when it was thought that Cup-ties created some ill-feeling. They won it in 1881 defeating Llanelli—at Neath. In the same year, they supplied W. D. Phillips, B. E. Girling, B. B. Mann and L. Watkins (Llandaff) to Welsh Team in the first International against England, at Blackheath. (The score? England, 8 goals 5 tries to Nil!). The names of F. E. Hancock, C. S. Arthur and W. M. Douglas appears in 1883-84, the year in which Cardiff made Rugby History by originating the four three-quarter system—against Cheltenham College, February 9th, 1884. The Treasurer had a surplus of £11 16s. 9d.

"Hancock's Year," 1885-86, was a great one. Hancock was opposed to goal dropping, and his team had their line crossed on only four occasions, and, sensation!—lost only one match, to Moseley at Cardiff, the very last game of the season.

By the end of 1889-90, Cardiff was a power in the game, and Newport and Swansea in Wales the great rivals. The first Colonials, the Maoris were met in 1888-89; in 1888-90, "Charlie" Arthur scored 25 tries; W. Stadden, Alec F. Bland, W. E. O. Williams, and D. W. Evans played for Wales in her first winning match against England; H. M. Ingledew and A. F. Hill were also capped against Ireland. The Barbarians were formed; Cardiff met and defeated them on 31st March, 1891. In 1892-93 T. W. Pearson scored 40 tries; his record lasted for 55 years until broken by Bleddyn Williams, 41 tries in 1947-48.

Norman Biggs and T. W. Pearson each scored 25 tries in 1893-94, and the "Prince of three-quarters," E. Gwyn Nicholls, played his first game for the First XV on 1st January, 1894. In the summer of 1895, a net-work of drains were laid and the surface of "the Park" re-turfed at a cost of £1,055 18s. 0d. Gwyn became Captain in 1898-99 at the end of which season, the Club donated £680 to Charities!!

Glorious years in the Golden Era of Welsh Rugby followed and lasted until about 1910. Great players too: Gwyn Nicholls, Percy Bush, Rhys Gabe, W. Neill, Jack Brown, Bert Winfield, Cecil Biggs, J. L. Williams, and others. Years of peak success, with 1905-6 outstanding and only one defeat—that memorable match with New Zealand on Boxing Day—a match lost (through one fatal lapse) 10 points to 8. Swansea and Newport each beaten four times! J. L. (Johnny) Williams scored 35 tries.

South Africa beaten in 1906-07 by 17 points to nil! The Australians trounced by 24 points to 8 in 1908-09. Canada—not very strong in Rugby Football, had been easily beaten in 1902-03 by 29 points to 3.

In this golden age, the Old (South) Stand had been erected. Practical and financial support had been given to Youth Rugby, and the formation of the Cardiff Schools Rugby Union, and that fine old Pavilion had been erected—the cost approximately shared with the Cardiff Cricket Club.

1909-1918.

The lustre of the Golden era had dimmed, perhaps because of keener rivalry of Welsh Clubs who had not been without their own great years; but good leadership came from R. A. Gibbs, Louis Dyke, W. Spiller, and W. (Billy) Jenkins, and their supporting "stags." The Barbarians were beaten 10 tries to nil in December, 1910; the South Africans triumphed over Cardiff by 7 points to 6. Percy Bush went to Nantes and greatly enhanced the status of Stade Nantais U.C. The War of 1914-18 called for, and took away, many grand Rugby Football volunteers, but a few charity matches were organised, and Jim Batstone (now a Vice-President still with us) played a leading part, but, generally, these years affected greatly the affairs of this and many other Rugby Clubs.

1919-1926.

These were the years of re-building. Our Newport friends were the post-war success with their inheritance of those fine Pill Harriers players—was not the latter team unbeaten? This was the era of Clem Lewis, Tom Wallace, Arthur Cornish, Tom Johnson, Idris Richards, Danny Davies, John Powell, and others. (Was there ever a better wing than Codger Johnson with his limitation of speed? He was after described as "Johnson the Lion hearted," What a grand tackler was he!). Clem had captained Cambridge; Tom Wallace had played for Ireland; the rest, except Danny, had played for Wales.

The results were not over-spectacular; there was much keen and close Club rivalry, but we had matches of fluctuating brilliance—with the Barbarians for example, but always, the aim was to play Cardiff's traditional standard of open play, and try and justify our heritage. True, we suffered some licks in the process: Do you remember that in 1919-20 Newport scored 75 points against Cardiff; that they won by 29 points to 3 on October 4th, 1919; New Zealand winning by 16 points to 8 in 1924-25—was Nepia the best ever full-back? Do you remember 25th October, 1924—Blackheath 26 points, Cardiff 3—"Tommy Lawton's Match"? Arthur Cornish and Tom Johnson played in the famous Centenary Match at Rugby, 1st November, 1923. Arthur and Danny Davies received invitations to tour South Africa with Cove-Smith's Team, but were unable to accept. C. S. (Charlie) Arthur passed on, and L. C. (Jack) Watters appointed Secretary—a position he held until World War II. W. E. (Ernie) Crawford, Irish full-back, played for Cardiff against Northampton, Wednesday, 6th April, 1926.

Towards the end of this era, the Club was reinforced by some brilliant youngsters, most of whom gained Blues for Cambridge or Oxford, Caps for Wales, and some—the Captaincy of Cardiff.

The Turnbolls, that great player and gentleman, John Roberts, his brother W. (Bill) Roberts, the Bowcotts, Ronnie Boon—another grand Wing, with "Percy Bush like" cheekiness and versatility; Syd Cravos, Frank Williams, and others. The versatile half-back, Bobbie Delahay was elected Skipper for 1926-27, and with plenty of talent available the Committee in "its wisdom" decided on the experiment of "running" two "First XV's." This experiment became the subject of much debate for years, and the reversion to a First XV and an Athletic XV in 1931-32 was, no doubt, much in deference to the feelings of many first-class Clubs, two of whom, for example, would find themselves playing Cardiff on the same day. There was embarrassment too, in the separation of records. Who amongst us relished defeats on the same day, by Blackheath and Maesteg for example, or by Northampton and Ebbw Vale? In 1926-27 the Club was favoured with two matches with the Maoris—we lost both, and in 1927-28, the Waratahs came and defeated us by 15 points to 9, and in 1930-31 the Club journeyed to Toulouse and played the French "B" XV, losing by 14 points to 11. The South Africans came in 1931-32 and we lost by 13 points to 5—Benny Osler's diagonal kicking having much to do with it. John Roberts left for China as a Missionary, and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales was present at the Wales v. Ireland match on 12th March, 1932.

Patches of brilliance were seen in 1932-33; in a glorious winning sequence in November, Cardiff successfully defeated Blackheath 18-8, Newport 24-0, Neath 31-5, and previously unbeaten Llanelli by 8-5.

Arthur Jones, Graham Jones, Tommy Stone, that popular un-capped player, Arthur Skym, and Bob Barrell were playing well. Tommy Stone scored 138 points that year and A. H. Jones 24 tries. In recognition of some 50 years of service to Welsh Rugby, and to Cardiff in particular, testimonials were given to W. M. Douglas in 1933-34, and to W. T. Morgan in 1934-35.

The period to 1935-36 was rather uneventful and general results below average. The New Zealanders came again in that year and soundly beat us. Tommy Stone's prize was the defeat of the Barbarians after their winning sequence of 22 matches in South Wales in six seasons. Hubert Johnson (the present chairman) had captained the Athletic XV for three successive seasons.

A great improvement took place in 1936-37 under Les Spence and by the time second World War came the Club had almost reached the standard of its golden era. With Cliff Jones, W. Wooller, Arthur Bassett amongst others in the backs, Arthur Skym, "Wendy" Davies, Eddie Watkins & Co., in the pack we had an excellent run of success. In 1937-38, Arthur

Bassett scored 28 tries. The "Rags" under V. R. Osmond, had the best season between the wars. In 1938-39 Wooller scored 163 points and established a new Club Record of 12 Drop Goals. In these three seasons we had much the better of the "arguments" with our Newport and Swansea friends, and Swansea in fact were beaten four times in 1936-37. The Middlesex Seven-a-side Tournament was won—at the first time of asking.

Alas, our old Pavilion was demolished in this period, to the great regret of many of the great figures in the Rugby World. Another Pillar of the Club, Jack Elliott, had "passed on." Arthur Cornish was elected to the W.R.U.

We had entertained hopes of a very successful season for 1939-40, but World War II came and official games were suspended after 2nd September, 1939. By the freak of War, 1939-40 gave both our teams invincibility: First Team played 2, won 2 (Cardiff & District R.U., and Bridgend). The Athletic XV, played 1, won 1 (Llanharan). But, thanks to the efforts of Arthur Cornish, Bruce Jenkins, Norman Riches, and a few of the Committee, Charity, and "unofficial" matches were played throughout the war. The effort and hard work during those war seasons was later to bear fruit, because a first-class and ready-made Team was available for peace-days. So much so, that in May, 1945, the "continuing" Committee met and decided that 1945-46 should be resumed officially, for all football purposes.

From the very resumption the Team played with such co-ordination and speed that it was soon the talk and following of the Rugby World. It revitalised the game! Cardiff was its healthy heart! In this latest era, 1945-46—1950-51, there is no question that the brilliant standard of play equalled the greatest years of the Golden Era—many aver that it was superior!

The names of the players are too fresh in your memory to be repeated here, and their individual achievements are still new, but, it must be said that the Club produced some brilliant leaders: Dr. Jack Matthews, Haydn Tanner, Bleddyn Williams, W. E. (Bill) Tamplin, and a combination of the finest exponents of the Rugby game in their supporting players.

In the House of Commons it was stated that "Cardiff is undoubtedly finest Rugby Club." (L. J. Callaghan, M.P., Cardiff South). 661 points were scored in Dr. Jack's first year: Bleddyn 30, and Dr. Glyn Jones 28 tries. All matches won until Boxing Day when we were defeated by the Kiwis by 3 points to 0—a defeat to be later avenged in the seven-a-side at Twickenham. Another successful season, 1946-47, followed. Bill Tamplin kicked 52 goals, and Lyn Williams, Athletic XV lost only one match. Then followed 1947-48, possibly the greatest of all in terms of play and results. Haydn Tanner moulded his Rugby craftsmen into an almost perfect attacking machine, indeed I would say his own ability reached its peak in the process; 803 points scored; 39 out of 41 matches won; Bleddyn's Club record of 41 tries established; the Australians beaten by 11 points to 3. All this despite the drain on the Club for Welsh Trials and International Matches. Years 1948-49—1950-51 were all excellent. The Club formed a Youth XV in support of the W.R.U. formation; it lost but one game under Peter Owen in its first year. Friendly ties were made with the French Clubs at Nantes and Cognac; a Past v. Present game produced £1,400 for the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. The Athletic XV, under Len Evans, broke the "Rags" Record with a total of 636 points in 1948-49. A French referee Louis Murail officiated for a Cardiff v. London Welsh match on the park; Billy Cleaver retired; 48,500 spectators at the Cardiff v. Newport game, February 7th, 1951; the old Park churned up badly in the wet 1950-51 season; it has now been thoroughly repaired; highest honours have been bestowed upon our players and officials, and young Cliff Morgan was capped against France on his 21st Birthday. The Rugby World was shocked by the sudden death of Arthur Cornish, and later Gerry Heslop passed on. Brice Jenkins assumed the onerous task of Hon. Secretaryship. Cardiff carried on. We mourned, too, the loss of our good friend and masseur, John Powell.

It has been impossible in this brief survey to record all Club achievements, or those of Officials or Players, who have served this Club, and the game so well and who have received the highest awards the game can give, but until "that Book" is written, perhaps these written words will have reminded the readers of a pleasant memory or two, and the great place Cardiff Rugby Club holds in the Rugby World.

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"VINTAGE YEARS"

CARDIFF FIRST XV.

Season	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	FOR			AGAINST			Average No. of Tries per Match in "Peak" years
					Goals	Tries	Pts.	Goals	Tries	Pts.	
*1885-86	27	26	1	..	70	61	..	3	1	..	4.9
1886-87	30	22	5	3	67	56	..	7	10	..	..
1887-88	25	19	2	4	48	41	..	6	6	..	..
1888-89	31	22	4	5	55	57	..	12	14	..	..
1892-93	33	28	5	0	47	72	..	16	18	..	..
1895-96	32	25	5	2	26	67	324	11	11	85	..
1896-97	30	24	5	1	43	66	409	16	13	114	..
1897-98	31	25	3	3	61	71	507	9	16	85	4.1
1898-99	28	22	3	3	53	56	422	11	6	67	..
1905-06	32	29	1	2	65	71	513	10	14	86	4.1
1906-07	30	25	3	2	54	52	404	10	13	83	..
1907-08	31	26	4	1	30	58	343	15	19	130	..
1908-09	31	26	3	2	54	41	372	16	31	138	..
1911-12	39	28	6	5	47	62	407	12	23	116	..
1936-37	44	36	7	1	81	61	553	31	18	173	2.5
1937-38	46	38	6	2	82	75	580	48	27	260	2.6
1938-39	42	31	5	6	71	70	512	31	21	188	2.5
1945-46	40	32	6	2	94	77	661	35	34	233	3.6
1946-47	41	31	6	4	79	65	549	35	20	197	3.0
1947-48	41	39	2	..	112	98	803	33	10	161	4.4
1948-49	44	38	3	3	83	89	630	43	18	213	..
1950-51											

* No Drop Goals.

CARDIFF "RESERVE" XV.

1884-85	18	17	0	1	30	42	..	0	5	..	4.0
1885-86	16	15	0	1	17	43	..	..	3	..	..
1887-88	20	18	1	1	41	43	..	1	1	..	4.2
1894-95	25	21	2	2	31	41	..	5	8	..	..
1896-97	28	24	4	2	43	57	..	11	14	..	..
1898-99	28	26	1	..	57	56	444	7	7	49	3.8
1901-02	28	22	2	4	39	42	314	7	9	58	..
1906-07	27	20	3	4	38	52	331	5	10	52	..
1909-10	30	26	4	..	44	59	383	7	11	62	..
1910-11	29	24	3	2	47	73	436	12	7	69	3.8
1936-37	33	25	6	2	53	65	448	26	20	179	..
1937-38	35	30	3	2	47	85	469	24	16	129	3.4
†1946-47	22	19	1	2	45	57	385	18	15	113	4.4
1947-48	31	26	3	2	67	52	453	18	18	124	..
1948-49	38	28	8	2	97	67	636	39	23	222	3.7

† Eleven matches cancelled.

"VINTAGE" SCORING
RESULTS (50 Points and above)

Season	Opponents	RESULT		Notes
		FOR	AGAINST	
		G. T. Pts.	G. T. Pts.	
1885-86	Cheltenham C.	7 5 ..	..
1886-87	Lampeter College	10 2 ..	..
1888-89	Bristol	5 9 ..	..
1893-94	London Welsh	6 9 57	..	
1893-94	Exeter	8 6 58	..	
1894-95	Lansdowne	7 6 53	1 3	
1897-98	Neath	8 5 54	..	
1907-08	Usk	10 9 77	..	Cardiff Reserves
1910-11	Moseley	9 6 63	1 3	At Moseley
1913-14	Canton	7 7 56	..	Cardiff Reserves
1926-27	Cardiff & Dist. R.U.	13 1 66	2 0 10	Trevor Lee 10 kicked goals
1929-30	Brynawr	6 7 51	1 0 3	
1947-48	Leicester	8 4 50	1 0 5	

"NEEDLE" MATCHES
CARDIFF RECORD TO END OF 1950-51

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Period
Newport	233	105	90	38	1876-77-1950-51
Swansea	181	84	73	24	1876-77-1950-51
Llanelli	133	74	49	10	1880-81-1950-51
Neath	50	29	15	6	1878-79-1950-51
Pontypool	76	49	19	8	1877-78-1950-51

"FRIENDLY" MATCHES					
Barbarians	66	45	19	2	1890-91-1950-51
Oxford University	21	14	5	2	1888-89-1950-51
Cambridge University	15	10	2	3	1893-94-1950-51

"ALL IN" MATCHES

			CG.	DG.	PG.	T.	MNR.	PTS.		CG.	DG.	PG.	T.	MNR.	PTS.
MAORIS			To												
1888-89	Maoris	29.12.88	Won	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
1926-27	Do.	6.11.26	Lost	1	-	1	-	-	8	3	-	-	1	-	18
1926-27	Do.	8.1.27	Lost	1	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	5
New Zealand															
1905-06	N.Z.	26.12.05	Lost	1	-	-	1	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	10
1924-25	Do.	22.11.24	Lost	1	-	1	-	-	8	2	-	1	1	-	16
1935-36	Do.	26.10.35	Lost	1	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	-	2	-	20
South Africa															
1906-07	S.A.	26.12.06	Won	1	-	1	3	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	0
1912-13	Do.	21.12.12	Lost	-	-	1	1	-	6	-	1	1	-	-	7
1931-32	Do.	21.11.31	Lost	1	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	-	-	-	13
Australia															
1908-09	Aust.	28.12.08	Won	1	1	1	4	-	24	1	-	-	1	-	8
1947-48	Do.	27.9.47	Won	1	-	1	1	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	3
New South Wales (Waratahs)															
1927-28	N.S.W.	3.12.27	Lost	-	-	2	1	-	9	1	1	-	2	-	15
Canadians															
1902-03	Canada	7.1.03	Won	4	-	-	3	-	29	-	-	1	-	-	3

CAPTAINS AND VICE-CAPTAINS

FIRST XV

	Captain	Vice-Captain
1876-7	T. S. DONALDSON SELBY	W. D. PHILLIPS
1877-8	E. C. FRY	W. D. PHILLIPS
1878-9	R. H. FOA	W. D. PHILLIPS
1878-80	W. D. PHILLIPS	B. E. GIRLING
1880-1	W. D. PHILLIPS	B. MANN
1881-2	B. E. GIRLING	W. D. PHILLIPS
1882-3	W. D. PHILLIPS	W. H. TREATT
1883-4	H. J. SIMPSON	W. D. PHILLIPS
1884-5	H. J. SIMPSON	W. D. PHILLIPS
1885-6	F. E. HANCOCK	A. F. HILL
1886-7	W. M. DOUGLAS	A. J. HYBART
1887-8	C. A. YOUNG	A. F. HILL
1888-9	A. F. HILL	C. S. ARTHUR
1889-90	C. S. ARTHUR	S. H. NICHOLLS
1890-1	W. E. O. WILLIAMS	D. W. EVANS
1891-2	D. W. EVANS	F. N. JONES
1892-3	T. W. PEARSON	A. LEWIS
1893-4	N. BIGGS	R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT
1894-5	A. F. HILL	R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT
1895-6	R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT	F. MILLS
1896-7	J. E. ELLIOT	S. BIGGS
1897-8	S. BIGGS	E. GWYN NICHOLLS
1898-9	E. GWYN NICHOLLS	T. DOBSON
1899-1900	E. GWYN NICHOLLS	H. V. P. HUSSEY
1900-1901	E. GWYN NICHOLLS	J. BLAKE
1901-2	H. B. WINFIELD	D. L. BOWEN
1902-3	H. B. WINFIELD	C. STRANAGHAN
1903-4	E. GWYN NICHOLLS	C. F. BIGGS
1904-5	C. F. BIGGS	W. NEILL
1905-6	PERCY F. BUSH	GEO. NORTHMORE
1906-7	PERCY F. BUSH	GEO. NORTHMORE
1907-8	RHYS T. GABE	J. BROWN
1908-9	PERCY F. BUSH	F. SMITH
1909-10	J. L. WILLIAMS	F. SMITH
1910-11	R. A. GIBBS	J. PUGSLEY
1911-12	L. M. DYKE	J. A. POWELL
1912-13	W. SPILLER	W. J. JENKINS
1913-14	W. J. JENKINS	R. F. WILLIAMS
1914-15	EUROPEAN WAR	
1915-16	F. GACCON-W. J. POWELL	W. J. JENKINS
1916-17	CLEM LEWIS	R. A. CORNISH
1917-18	R. ARTHUR CORNISH	I. RICHARDS
1918-19	DR. T. WALLACE	I. RICHARDS
1919-20	IDRIS RICHARDS	T. A. JOHNSON
1920-21	T. A. JOHNSON	D. E. DAVIES
1921-22	D. E. DAVIES	W. J. DELAHAY
1922-23	W. J. DELAHAY	D. E. DAVIES
1923-24	B. R. TURNBULL	B. O. MALE
1924-25	B. O. MALE	K. P. TURNBULL
1925-26	S. C. CRAVOS	H. POOLE
1926-27	B. R. TURNBULL	S. C. CRAVOS
1927-28	HOWARD POOLE	H. M. BOWCOTT
1928-29	TOM LEWIS	B. R. TURNBULL
1929-30	GRAHAM JONES	R. GABE-JONES
1930-31	R. GABE-JONES	
1931-32	A. SKYM	T. STONE
1932-33	T. STONE	L. M. SPENCE
1933-34	L. M. SPENCE	T. STONE
1934-35	A. H. JONES	H. REES
1935-36	W. WOOLLER	W. E. N. DAVIS
1936-37	WORLD WAR No. 2	
1937-38	JACK MATTHEWS	R. BALE
1938-39	JACK MATTHEWS	LES MANFIELD
1939-40	HAYDN TANNER	BLEDDYN WILLIAMS
1940-41	HAYDN TANNER	BLEDDYN WILLIAMS
1941-42	BLEDDYN WILLIAMS	FRANK TROTT
1942-43	W. E. TAMPLIN	BLEDDYN WILLIAMS
1943-44	JACK MATTHEWS	W. R. WILLIS
1944-45		
1945-46		
1946-47		
1947-48		
1948-49		
1949-50		
1950-51		
1951-52		

CLUB'S INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

C. S. ARTHUR	1888	(3)	M. JONES	1921	(2)
T. M. BARLOW	1884	(1)	W. JONES	1898	(2)
R. BARRELL	1929	(4)	T. D. KEDZLIE	1888	(2)
A. BASSETT	1934	(6)	C. LEWIS	1912	(11)
N. BIGGS	1893	(5)	D. H. LEWIS	1886	(2)
S. BIGGS	1895	(9)	T. LEWIS	1926	(3)
J. BLAKE	1899	(9)	B. O. MALE	1921	(11)
A. F. BLAND	1887	(8)	L. MANFIELD	1939	(7)
R. W. BOON	1930	(12)	B. B. MANN	1880	(1)
H. M. BOWCOTT	1929	(8)	J. MATTHEWS	1947	(17)
R. BRIDIE	1882	(1)	C. MORGAN	1951	(2)
J. BROWN	1925	(1)	W. L. MORGAN	1910	(1)
J. BROWN	1907	(7)	H. MORRIS	1951	(1)
J. BURNS	1927	(2)	W. NEIL	1904	(11)
P. F. BUSH	1905	(8)	T. J. NICHOLAS	1919	(1)
J. CLARE	1882	(1)	E. G. NICHOLLS	1896	(24)
W. B. CLEAVER	1947	(14)	S. H. NICHOLLS	1889	(3)
T. COOK	1949	(2)	W. B. NORTON	1882	(6)
W. COPE	1896	(1)	W. J. OULD	1924	(2)
F. H. CORNISH	1897	(4)	T. W. PEARSON	1891	(13)
R. A. CORNISH	1923	(10)	W. D. PHILLIPS	1880	(5)
R. DAVID	1907	(1)	J. POWELL	1906	(1)
C. DAVIES	1947	(16)	J. POWELL	1923	(1)
D. G. DAVIES	1923	(2)	J. W. POWELL	1920	(4)
E. DAVIES	1912	(2)	J. PROSSER	1921	(1)
G. DAVIES	1928	(3)	J. PUGSLEY	1910	(7)
W. DAVIES	1896	(1)	H. REES	1937	(5)
W. E. N. DAVIES	1939	(3)	L. REES	1933	(1)
W. J. DELAHAY	1922	(18)	G. RICHARDS	1927	(1)
G. DOBSON	1900	(1)	I. RICHARDS	1925	(3)
T. DOBSON	1898	(4)	A. RICKARD	1924	(1)
W. M. DOUGLAS	1886	(4)	J. ROBERTS	1927	(13)
J. C. M. DYKE	1906	(1)	W. ROBERTS	1929	(1)
L. M. DYKE	1910	(4)	H. J. SIMPSON	1884	(3)
J. E. ELLIOTT	1894	(3)	I. S. SMITH	1884	(3)
W. J. ELSEY	1895	(1)	W. SPILLER	1910	(10)
D. W. EVANS	1889	(5)	W. H. STADDEN	1884	(7)
G. EVANS	1947	(12)	R. E. SWEET-ESCOTT	1891	(3)
O. J. EVANS	1887	(4)	A. SKYV	1928	(20)
R. EVANS	1889	(1)	W. E. TAMPLIN	1947	(7)
N. FENDER	1930	(6)	H. TANNER	1935	(25)
D. FITZGERALD	1894	(2)	L. C. THOMAS	1885	(2)
R. T. GABE	1901	(24)	A. F. TROTT	1948	(8)
R. GIBBS	1906	(16)	B. R. TURNBULL	1925	(6)
B. E. GIRLING	1880	(1)	M. J. TURNBULL	1933	(2)
F. E. HANCOCK	1884	(4)	E. WATKINS	1935	(8)
A. F. HILL	1885	(14)	D. WESTACOTT	1906	(1)
S. HINAM	1925	(5)	B. L. WILLIAMS	1947	(13)
J. T. HINTON	1884	(1)	F. WILLIAMS	1929	(14)
H. HUGHES	1887	(1)	J. L. WILLIAMS	1906	(17)
V. HUZZEY	1898	(5)	LES WILLIAMS	1947	(7)
A. J. HYBART	1887	(1)	R. F. WILLIAMS	1913	(5)
H. M. INGLEDEW	1890	(3)	W. E. O. WILLIAMS	1887	(5)
I. ISAACS	1933	(2)	R. WILLIS	1950	(8)
M. JAMES	1947	(5)	H. B. WINFIELD	1903	(15)
W. JENKINS	1912	(4)	W. WOOLLER	1933	(18)
T. JOHNSON	1921	(12)	G. A. YOUNG	1886	(2)
A. H. JONES	1933	(2)	(N.B.—Date indicates year of first appearance for Wales. Figure in brackets indicates number of caps obtained.)		
G. JONES	1930	(2)			
J. A. JONES	1883	(1)			

SECRETARIES OF CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB

1876-77	..	E. C. FRY	1889-90	} W. H. TREATT
1877-78	..	R. H. FOA		A. F. BLAND
1878-79	..	I. A. JONES	1890-92	.. W. H. TREATT
1878-80	..	E. D. THOMAS	1892-1926	.. C. S. ARTHUR
1880-81	..	W. H. TREATT	1926-39	.. L. C. WATTERS
1881-82	..	W. H. TREATT	1939-45	} N. V. H. RICHES
1882-83	..	W. H. TREATT		R. A. CORNISH
1883-84	} J. SIDNEY SMITH		1945-48	.. R. A. CORNISH
1884-89	.. W. H. TREATT		1948-	.. B. H. JENKINS

THIRTY-SIX

The Club Museum

By Hubert Johnson

Chairman 1950-52

ANYONE who says a word against Rugby Football is making a big mistake. No other game beats it for making a man healthy and wise, if not wealthy.

It teaches him to judge for himself and yet to be unselfish, to stand knocks and yet to keep his temper, to use his head as well as his legs, to keep his body and his mind in good condition. In fact it makes a man of him, and a sportsman.

These words are taken from a scrapbook dated 1909 in the Cardiff Rugby Museum.

How very true and how necessary to cherish such scrapbooks which offer us such a wealth of detail of the Glorious History of our Club. The museum takes you back year by year to the days when the Club was started in 1874, when punting was considered bad form, and tripping was never considered etiquette.

It shows how the tradition which is our birthright has been built up Brick by Brick by those grand pioneers and giants of the past 75 years. How gratified they would be to know that after 75 years those bricks do not need any re-pointing and that the task of the present era is only to follow in the footsteps of their endeavours and to build the structure higher, a simple task on such a foundation.

The museum, officially opened on March 9th, 1951, on the eve of the Ireland v. Wales game, and at the Players' re-union night, really originated from the old Club House when the Refreshment Bar was first opened, and there in a small case was a display of jerseys collected by Mr. L. C. Watters, then General Secretary.

Being at that time a youngster on the fringe of being a playing member, I could never visit the Bar unless I had another look at the display, and imagine the great games and memories they envisaged.

I wonder how many thousands of supporters would be prepared to walk miles to see and hear sound films of such as past giants in action such as Gwyn Nicholls, Percy Bush, Rhys Gabe, B. Winfield, W. Spiller, to name only a few, my guess is many. Well, that is what the museum has to offer the future generation in regard to the stars of one of Cardiff's greatest eras.

Can you imagine the attendance at a Film Show to celebrate the Club's Centenary showing action films of Dr. Jack Matthews, Bleddyn Williams, Billy Cleaver, Wilf Wooller, Cliff Jones, Haydn Tanner, etc. Also a film of that epoch game between Cardiff and Newport at Cardiff Arms Park, on February 17th, 1951. Well, those films are in our safe keeping today. Will Cardiff have a hall big enough by then?

Many past stars or their families have handed some of their Rugby Treasures to the Club as gifts for display, such as Gwyn Nicholls, R. T. Gabe, Tommy Vile, W. M. Douglas, and present players Jack Matthews, Bleddyn Williams, etc. We are indebted to many others as well.

Included in the display are International Trial, County, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Club Caps—also International Jerseys of England, Ireland, Scotland, France, New Zealand, Australia, British Isles, South Africa, New South Wales, and, of course, Wales, all with a History attached.

Many famous Club jerseys and colours have been presented over the years.

THIRTY-SEVEN

Newspaper cuttings dating from 18?, Touch Flags of memorable games and many other items of interest. Also through the Club rooms is an almost complete sequence of Club Groups over 75 years, and autographed photographs of many Touring Teams from overseas.

There are so many points of interest in the scrapbook of newspaper cuttings of the days when there was some paper about that they will settle almost any argument between all you great Rugby fans. By the way, did you know that Cardiff's drawn game at Llanelli November 20th, 1909, was the first draw for ten years between the Clubs, or that according to the newspapers, there were 30,000 people watching a game between Newport and Cardiff on March, 1910, or that the game was a draw, and that dear old Charlie Culverwell still a member of the Club played a great game that day and wiped the eye of his opposite number, none other than great Tommy Vile. What about when Percy Bush was nearly sent off against Moseley on January 8th, 1910, but according to the report, was exculpated and to the joy of the crowd, remained on the field to celebrate by running through the opposition.

Cardiff v. Bristol at Bristol, September 25th, 1909. Report states as part of the carnival held by the Bristol Club during the last three days, races were held after the game between Backs v. Backs Forwards v. Forwards of the opposing teams from Post to Post. R. A. Gibbs won by four yards from Billy Spiller, Brodie of Bristol 3rd, and Frank Wood fullback 4th. F. W. Gaccon won the forwards race, coming up on the outside with a Wet Sail to beat J. Brookman. Were they tough or didn't they push?

Just a few extracts from one scrapbook of many, and I am sure you will agree the Club has done a wise thing by taking steps to preserve such grand memories.

Although space in the present display is limited, I feel sure there are many more trophies of great interest in the possession of members and old players. After all, we can always purchase another show-case. Tradition cannot be bought.

* * *



Rev. H. LOVELUCK
(Committee)



L. WILLIAMS
(Committee)



J. THOMAS
(Committee)



G. PORTER
(Committee)



J. MATTHEWS
(Captain 1951-52)



A. T. THOMAS
(Committee)



COMBINED CARDIFF AND NEW ZEALAND TEAMS, 1924.



CARDIFF SEVEN-A-SIDE TEAM, 1939.

Standing : L. C. Watters (Secretary), D. Brown, G. Hale, W. R. Davies, E. Jones, W. E. N. Davies, J. Powell (Masseur), and R. A. Cernish (Committee).

Sitting : S. Davies, G. Porter, W. T. Morgan (President), W. Wooller (Captain), and L. M. Spence.



Head Groundsman Jim Pursey shows Programme Editor J. B. G. Thomas, some of his famous soil.



L. M. SPENCE
(Committee)



W. B. CLEAVER
(Committee)



D. BROWN
(Committee)



L. C. WATTERS
General Secretary,
1926-1939



W. E. TAMPLIN
Captain 1950-51



M. JAMES
(Committee)

