

to cover the gate losses of clubs, provided that the media could exercise some form of control over club fixtures. Pigs can now fly, and we have landed men on the moon.

The Cardiff Rugby Supporters Club (president Percy F. Bush and G. B. Jones, hon. secretary) held an annual dinner in the Royal Hotel. The players who had triumphed over the All Blacks, club officials and the press were invited to a happy function. Amongst those who spoke at the gathering were Rhys Gabe of 1905 fame and Billy Cleaver. On the menu card was printed "Cardiff's victory over the All Blacks was and will ever remain one of the finest games of all time."

#### SID JUDD STRUCK BY ILLNESS IN A GREAT SEASON

##### CLIFF MORGAN JOINS BECTIVE RANGERS. 'QUINS' v. CARDIFF FLOODLIGHT

1954-55. P48, W38, L5, D5. Points 676-243.

This was quite a remarkable season, marred only by the untimely illness of our captain Sid Judd which restricted his appearances to 24 matches. Later the illness was to prove fatal, causing his death by leukaemia in the full flower of his manhood. Before his breakdown he was a most experienced forward already holding ten Welsh caps, and a candidate for the forthcoming Lions tour to South Africa 1955. He was strong, aggressive, a good reader of the game and a most useful goal kicker. In fact he was the type who asserted his qualities by his energetic example. Sid nominated Rex Willis to be his vice-captain.

We had lost Alun Thomas who decided to join Llanelly and Cliff Morgan who took up an appointment in Dublin and joined Bective Rangers club with whom he really enjoyed his Rugby. Cliff was popular and in the course of his stay, Bective became known in Dublin circles as 'Morgan's Rangers'; he was pleased to captain an International XV, more than half of them British Lions, to play Bective on its 75th anniversary in 1956. Colin Bosley left us and so did John R. Phillips our popular forward who I seem to remember became a Benedick and joined Newport. But there was much good talent to contend for first team places, particularly amongst the backs. At half back there was Rex Willis; Lloyd Williams and Colin Hewett both of whom could play in either half back position, there was Brian Mark and the versatile and devastating side-stepper Ken Richards. At three-quarter we were also strong being able to choose from Gareth Griffiths, Haydn Morris, Bleddyn Williams, Gordon Wells, Howard Nicholls, Derek Murphy, Dr. Gwyn Rowlands and the Old Illydian Peter Nyhan.

We made a great start and were unbeaten for the first 22 matches, then, on an unlucky day (13th December) we lost our ground record in defeat by Cambridge University—11 points to three, a jolting the Varsity had similarly inflicted upon us in December 1948. Moseley also beat us—9 points to 8—on the final trial date. Newport beat us at home in March by 11 points to six. Birkenhead Park also succeeded by nine points to eight whilst we were on tour to play them, and Halifax whom we beat two days later by 27 points to nine. The Barbarians beat us at Easter time, only just, by six points to three and they included seven selected 1955 British Lions in their team. Amongst our many victories perhaps those over Bristol (38-3) and Aberavon (32-11) were most notable.

Our top try scorers were Derek Murphy 26, Gordon Wells 17, Haydn Morris 15, Bleddyn Williams 14, Gareth Griffiths 10, Howard Nicholls, Dr. Gwyn Rowlands and Ken Richards each got eight, and our captain Sid Judd scored seven and kicked 23 goals. The other chief goal kickers were John Llewellyn who put over 24, Ken Richards kicked 17 and Gwyn Rowlands after his return from Australia as a ship's M.O. also kicked 17. Gwyn Rowlands kicked four goals and scored two tries—sixteen points out of Cardiff's 22 points to 13 win over Coventry in April. Honours: Colin Howe, Alan Priday, Ken Richards, J. H. Thomas and Gordon Wells were awarded club caps.

Of the 48 of the First XV fixtures Malcolm Collins played in 44, Beckingham in 42, J. D. Evans 42 and Eddie Thomas 41. In the international field eight of our players assisted Wales, Bleddyn Williams (captain), Gordon Wells (first cap), Cliff Morgan (four times whilst with Bective Rangers), Sid Judd, Gareth Griffiths, C. D. Williams (first cap) and Haydn Morris. For the British Lions tour to South Africa four of our players were chosen, namely Cliff Morgan, Haydn Morris, Alun Thomas—but now with Llanelly, and Gareth

Griffiths who flew out as a replacement. I was honoured with the hon. secretaryship of the Lions in South Africa, and there saw Cliff Morgan produce his best Rugby football of his career. Rex Willis was invited to tour, but for domestic reasons was unable to accept, he was favourite to become the tour captain.

Sadly for all Rugby lovers, Bleddyn Williams announced his decision to retire at the end of the season. He had served the club truly and well since 1938-39. He added lustre to the game itself, his praises have been well and truly sung, I will add this, that, in about nearly two hundred matches when I was privileged to watch him I do not remember one incident in which he was involved in any form of misconduct on the field. On 1st May 1954 for the last match of the season against Llanelly at home, Bleddyn was made captain. At the end of the match the crowd rushed on to the field and shouldered him off in honour. It was the last, but not the least, of his many honours on the Cardiff Arms Park. St. Albans Military Band were present to add their tribute, it was to play "The end of a perfect day."

The Athletic XV was captained by Peter Goodfellow, our popular and enthusiastic forward and the results were the best since the end of the war. They were: P33, W28, L4, D1, points 521 to 118. Similar to the First XV, "The Rags" had got as far as the 11th December without defeat when they met Pencoed at home and lost by eight points to three. It was the day of the first Welsh trial and Peter was called upon to captain the First XV to play the Harlequins in London with at least six of the club's leading players absent. Peter successfully led the team to victory by two tries and a penalty goal to one try. "The Rags" went off with a bang. Up to the end of November they had scored no less than 339 points, but later in the season six matches were cancelled, with an effect on the number of points scored. Resolven were hammered by eight goals, four tries to nil, Alan Priday kicking eight goals and scoring one try.

The top try scorers were C. L. Davies 18, R. T. Parsons 15, Gareth Griffiths and Peter Nyhan eight each, John Dodd, Derek Murphy and J. H. Thomas seven each, Ken Richards six, Alan Priday and Lloyd Williams five each. Alan Priday was chief goal kicker with 58 goals scoring in all a total of 137 points. New caps were awarded to John Crothers, J. Otto Jones, T. J. McCarthy, Peter Nyhan, R. J. Parsons and A. J. Rosser. With fewer matches played, Terry Donovan the "Rags" hooker played in 27 of them.

Alan Jones was the captain of the Cardiff Juniors—the Youth XV which achieved its best record since its formation. The results were P27, W23, L2, D2, points 442-52. J. Cowley was awarded his Welsh Youth international cap and Les Jones was the keen hon. secretary and general factotum.

Seven a side. Cardiff entered the Newport organised Welsh (Snelling) tournament on 30th April 1955. It was a young Seven that we entered and only Gordon Wells and Gareth Griffiths had 'sevens' experience which they had acquired at St. Luke's College. We won the tournament beating Pontypridd, Aberavon, Newbridge and in the final, Newport by eight points to three. At the Cardiff Arms Park in a club fixture, Cardiff beat Old Belvedere by 21 points to 11.

Floodlight exhibition match. Cardiff accepted an invitation from the Harlequins to play them in a floodlight match at White City on 12th October. It was the first floodlight match staged in the south of England. The "Quins" won by one goal, one penalty goal to one try and one penalty goal, they scored their try in the last minute and the whistle blew for 'no side' after their successful conversion. The match led to the innovation of floodlight Rugby to the clubs.

Dr. Jack Matthews our chairman organised representative teams to play the Treorchy, Cardiff High School Old Boys and the Penarth clubs in connection with their anniversary celebrations. On the club's return from the Cornish tour it stopped at Weston-super-Mare and played a Somerset County team in connection with the opening of Weston's new stand and pavilion on 20th April. Cardiff played well in an exhibition manner and won by 30 points to five, and the president of the Rugby Football Union spoke in appreciative terms of the Cardiff Rugby Club, when he formally opened the grand stand.

On the home front the Cardiff Athletic Club reported that another £2,000 had been allocated to the building reserve, and at long last the plans for our new clubhouse were approved by the management committee. Negotiations were also going on with the W.R.U.

in connection with an extension to the south stand. The head groundsman Jim Pursey, resigned and Des Glover one of our former players was appointed to succeed him.

In April 1955 a players' meeting was held. Its agenda included the items of nomination for first team captain and for committee for 1955-56. Such meetings have continued but I have never been partisan to them as any nomination for captain made by a member of the club or by the committee would not be accepted by the nominee unless he had been nominated by the players, some young and inexperienced, who also enjoy the privilege of a reduced membership fee. I write this frankly from experience.

Obituary. The passing away of past players always invokes the sympathy of those who knew them, but 'Father Time' takes his inevitable toll, yet we must not forget to try and mention always those of the past who helped to make our club great; Percy Bush the club's best outside half up to World War I, left this world. One of the greatest of line-out forwards 'Billy' Neil 1898-1909 died. And so did our club medical officer Dr. Tom Wallace, he gave the club service as player, administrator and medical officer from 1919-20.

#### VISITORS FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

#### CLIFF MORGAN'S SUCCESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

#### HOWELL LOVELUCK PADRE IN KENYA

1955-56. P52, W35, L16, D1. Points 612-360.

Malcolm Collins was elected captain and he nominated Dr. Gwyn Rowlands as his vice-captain. Malcolm had joined us from Newport in 1949-50 and gained his first team cap in that season. This 'gentle giant' of a man, standing 6 ft. 2 ins. in height and weighing more than 16 stone was a most popular leader who gained final Welsh trial and reserve for Wales honours. Full international honours eluded him although he was worthy of them.

Bleddyn Williams, the last of our brilliant post-war 'greats' had retired. Cliff Morgan was available for only eight matches, Stan Bowes had 'retired' to the "Rags" XV, and Rex Willis played in only 23 of the first team matches. Our first five matches were won, perhaps not too convincingly, the third of these was against Roumania from behind the Iron Curtain and we succeeded in a close struggle by six points to three, it was the only defeat suffered by Roumania on tour. There was much keenness in the game, these first visitors were all out to create an impression of their Rugby strength. France has helped in the development of Rugby football in Roumania and play regular matches on international level with that country the results of which are pretty close. Our gate totalled £2,981.

A disastrous period followed our five victories and we lost nine out of the next eleven games. Only by an almost superhuman effort did we prevent Newport beating us four times. We won the last encounter at Newport by a mere point—10 points to nine. In the first of the series at Cardiff, we led Newport after half time by six points when both Rex Willis and Gwyn Rowlands were hurt and we finished up with 13 men to lose 16-6. Unlucky perhaps, but there, only results count in records. We recovered our prestige however and lost only seven more matches.

Both Varsities defeated us and could field strong fifteens. Cambridge included A. R. Smith, A. A. Mulligan, W. R. Evans and R. W. D. Marques, all destined to play for their respective countries, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. Smith had already been capped for his country and took part in the Lions tour of 1955. One of our players, Alan Barter was also in the Light Blues team. Oxford included against us M. J. K. Smith and Onllwyn Brace at half back, R. H. Davies, J. D. Currie and P. G. D. Robbins, forwards, soon to become international stars. London Welsh and Ebbw Vale gained rare victories as did the Harlequins on Easter Monday, we had drawn with the Barbarians but defeated Northampton on the Tuesday. It was not the usual profitable Easter period. We were successful on our French tour defeating Stade Nantais at Nantes and Paris University and on our Cornish tour of three matches with Plymouth Albion, Penzance-Newlyn and St. Ives; we ended up with a flush of five convincing wins over Gloucester 11-3, Leicester 20-5, Pontypool 16-8, Bridgend 13-0 and Aberavon 13-3.

The season's top scorers were Gwyn Rowlands 24 tries and 28 goals—136 points, Ken Richards 9 tries and 34 goals—117 points, Gordon Wells 20 tries, Howard Nicholls 18 and Derek Murphy 16. Club caps were gained by D. J. Dodd, Malcolm Gough, Glyn John and Eddie Lewis. The captain played in 50 of the season's fixtures, and five players took part in 40 or more, namely J. D. Evans 46, Colin Howe 45, Eddie Lewis 43, Alan Priday 42 and Geoff Beckingham in 40. C. L. Davies gained his three Welsh caps, Gwyn Rowlands played against France and Cliff Morgan gained the supreme honour of captaining Wales in her four matches. On the successful Lions tour of 1955, Cliff captained the tourists at Pretoria in the third test when they defeated the Springboks by nine points to six. Joy indeed! Bleddyn Williams had similar success over the Australians on the 1950 Lions Tour. At Nairobi for the last match of the Lions tour against an East African XV we were given private hospitality as opposed to staying in an hotel. Cliff Morgan, Haydn Morris and I stayed in the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bryant. Arthur Bryant (always called Pat by me) was an official of the East African Rugby Union and had refereed for that body—in a Blue and Black jersey—until his retirement with the whistle at about 63 years of age. In his very young days, prior to World War I he had played for Penarth and in a few matches for Cardiff Reserves.

We were privileged to meet there Captain Howell Loveluck who had played for Cardiff in the period 1939/40-1949/50. He was now chaplain to H.M. Forces in Kenya—in the time of the Mau Mau troubles.

Cardiff Athletic XV had an excellent season, P39, W29, L4, D6 with 571 points to 184. Peter Goodfellow had been appointed captain, but his services were such that he was required to play for the first team on no fewer than 33 occasions, and Stan Bowes took over the captaincy of "The Rags". Six of the fixtures were cancelled by bad weather, mainly frost and snow, nevertheless it was quite a strong fixture list and the only defeats were by Ogmere Vale 14-3, Newport United 9-8, Bristol United 5-3 and Barry by 20 points to 16. Brian Joseph was top scorer with 16 tries, R. J. Parsons got 14, Ron Mustard 12 and Colin Hewitt 10. John Llewellyn kicked 27 goals, J. M. Fitzgerald 17 and got four tries, Derek Davies playing at full-back kicked 16. The recipients of Athletic caps were Derek Davies, Henry Jacobs, Kingsley Jones, Brian Joseph and B. Sadler. Most appearances: T. J. McCarthy 29, J. Crothers 27, S. Bowes 27, F. C. Ferguson and R. Parsons each 25, Brian Joseph 23, J. M. Fitzgerald 21, B. Sadler and Lloyd Williams 20.

Cardiff Junior XV had a most successful season, having played 28, won 24, drawn 3 and lost 1, with 473 points to 78. Under John Heron's captaincy the Juniors were undefeated in Wales. They added to their laurels by winning the Cardiff & District Youth Sevens—for the second season running. Ken Leonard played against France and Germany.

At the very end of the season and at rather short notice, a match was arranged with a New Zealand Navy XV at the Arms Park. The Kiwis were more than delighted to play on our historic ground and although they went down by 40 points to 10 in a somewhat hilarious match, the after-proceedings of the evening in the old clubhouse were most enjoyable and there were many repeats of the Haka Warrior Dance by Maori members of the crew who tried to gather in some of our own players, including our skipper Malcolm Collins, to learn it. A ship's plaque adorns our clubhouse together with a Maori spear.

The Welsh Rugby Union celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Cardiff Arms Park on 22nd October 1955 with a match between Wales and the British Lions touring team of 1955. I was asked by the Welsh Rugby Union whilst I was in South Africa to organise the Lions XV. It was a task I undertook with some pride and not a little pleasure.

On the occasion of the Wales v. Scotland match on 4th February 1956, the extension to the south stand—the addition of which is called the south upper stand, was formally opened, thus increasing the seating capacity to 12,800 and in the ground overall to 60,000. The project cost approximately £60,000 and a quarter of the cost was met by the Cardiff Athletic Club. In June 1956 our new club house was opened. Our spacious long bar on the first floor looked a splendid picture. Alas, in the course of its usage, there were pessimists who thought it would become a gin palace and lose some of the club's character—most unfair criticism. But we did lose in the course of time some of our old traditional Rugby members. In practical use it has been of the utmost value.

Obituary. Several well known sporting personalities passed away, some of them sud-