

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-

denly. D. Bernard Morgan who had been the past chairman of the Cardiff Athletic Club management committee and had taken a most active and distinguished part in the building up of the Cardiff Athletic Club from its very formation in 1920-1922. Jim Batstone died, he had given most of his lifetime in the service of the club as a player and administrator. The Welsh Rugby Union also suffered in the death of Eric Evans who was the secretary of the W.R.U. For a time, until a new secretary was appointed (Mr. W. H. Clement), Mr. Brice Jenkins acted as the Welsh Union's administrator. It was a most unfortunate tragedy that Brice Jenkins who was until last season the Rugby Club's hon. secretary, was not re-elected to the club committee. Having worked closely together for many years I can say that he was the most efficient of secretaries, a civil servant of standing and universally respected. He loved the Cardiff Rugby Club and protected its good name. No subsequent hon. secretary has equalled his capabilities and dedication to our Rugby club's affairs. Sid Judd became a member of the committee for 1955-56, he was fighting for good health.

WE RECEIVE GERMANY, ITALY AND TOUR ROUMANIA

WE ARE MASSACRED BY THE BARBARIANS

1956-57. P50, W36, L12, D2. Points 627-346.

Peter Goodfellow one of the club's best uncapped back row forwards was the popular choice as captain and he nominated Gareth Griffiths as his deputy. A most loyal player, he served well for eleven seasons and took part in 240 first team matches. He had captained the Athletic XV for two seasons. A notable newcomer was W. R. 'Roddy' Evans the Cambridge Blue forward, a great lock, over sixteen stone and standing 6 ft. 4 ins. He was to gain thirteen Welsh caps and a tour with the British Lions to New Zealand and Australia in 1959, and a Barbarian tour to South Africa and East Africa in 1958. It was a most interesting season, an arduous one which promised well and we were unbeaten after eighteen matches until we met Swansea (A) on 1st December to lose by six points to three.

Germany were met at the Arms Park on the opening match of the season. They included a number of quite blonde performers but they lacked the finesse of the experienced clubmen by our own standards. They played a very clean and sporting game and held us to two penalty goals at half time, but Cardiff's superior knowledge and skill told in the end and we won by 25 points to nil. The match with the Italians on 3rd October was a less spectacular game, a dour struggle in fact. They appeared to be more experienced than the earlier German visitors. There was quite a bit of mauling and 'odd' tackling and other mis-application to the rules, but after quite a hard struggle we triumphed by eight points to three.

Led by Dr. Louis Babrow the former Springbok, a tour to Britain was made by the South African Universities, mainly from Cape Town and Stellenbosch. The visitors proved themselves very well coached in the arts of Rugby and put up quite a struggle at the Arms Park when we met them in a mid-week game. They had defeated Newport, narrowly, and we won our match with them on 9th January by 18 points to eight.

Our best successes were obtained in the first half of the season. We beat Bridgend 28 points to 5, Swansea by 24-6 and Halifax in a sporting encounter by 36 points to 14. We beat both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, 'Roddy' Evans making his debut against Oxford on 3rd November—a Welsh trial date when we were without Cliff Morgan, Gareth Griffiths, Howard Nicholls and Gordon Wells. On 8th December, another Welsh trial date, Peter Goodfellow was captain of the Whites selection, and in all nine of our players were engaged in both teams (Reds v. Whites), and on the same day, what was practically a reserve fifteen played the Harlequins in London and gave a splendid performance, losing by only 17 points to 11.

In Scotland on tour to play Glasgow High School F.P. on New Year's Eve, and the Watsonians next day, we lost surprisingly to the former by a point 9-8; five days later we went down to Moseley by 13 points to 11, on the final Welsh trial date. We had two wins and one drawn game with Newport. In the second encounter at Cardiff we scraped home very late in the game by a point: at Newport in March the Usksiders scored 10

points in the last three minutes. These two matches were described as the most exciting ones seen for many years. We scored doubles over Bridgend, Coventry and Gloucester but we were to suffer great humiliation at Easter time losing all three matches—to Barbarians, Harlequins and Northampton. On only one occasion before had we lost all three Easter programme matches, in 1934-35, to the Baabaas, 'Quins and Coventry.

At the hands of the Barbarians we suffered the heaviest defeat in our history, five goals, five tries—40 points to an abysmal nothing. It was a massacre no less. True we were without Cliff Morgan, Gareth Griffiths and Gordon Wells, Viv Jenkins of the "Sunday Times" wrote: "These three were mute, and doubtless tormented witnesses in the grandstand, at their clubmates' annihilation". They were to accompany the Barbarian touring party to Canada the following Wednesday. The Barbarians' committee fully expected that the three players would be chosen by Cardiff to play against them on that Easter Saturday, but for reasons of their own the Cardiff selectors did not call upon them. Cardiff's backs hardly got into the game at all and in the end our forwards, frustrated perhaps by some atrociously weak defence, tired. The Barbarians ran at us—and through us, time and time again playing in the modern parlance "fifteen man" Rugby of sustained brilliance. The teams were as follows:—

CARDIFF—A. Priday, Ken Richards, Howard Nicholls, Peter Nyhan and R. J. Parsons, Colin Hewitt and Lloyd Williams. Colin Howe, G. Beckingham, J. D. Evans, W. R. Evans, M. Collins, Eddie Thomas, P. Goodfellow (capt.) and J. D. Nelson.

BARBARIANS—Terry Davies, A. R. Smith, A. J. O'Reilly, R. R. Winn, P. H. Thompson, D. G. Baker and A. A. Mulligan. C. R. Jacob, Eric Evans, G. W. Hastings, R. H. Williams, R. W. D. Marques, P. D. Robbins, Rees Stephens and A. Robson.

Referee: G. J. Treharne.

Scorers: A. R. Smith (3 tries), O'Reilly and Thompson, 2 each, Hastings, Winn and Mulligan. Goals: D. G. Baker (3), Terry Davies (2).

After-match enquiries from members, press and public such as "was this our biggest defeat Danny?" served only to increase the agony of mind. But I found solace in the official club records which show that on Boxing Day 1903-04 season (there were two annual fixtures in those days) Cardiff defeated the Barbarians by six goals (one dropped), four tries 41 points to one try 3 points. Gwyn Nicholls our great captain scored three of the tries. On 27th December 1910 we won by ten tries, 30 points to nil, not one converted. R. A. Gibbs bagged four tries.

Top scorers: tries, Gareth Griffiths and Glyn John 18, Howard Nicholls 14, Gordon Wells 11, Alan Priday kicked 64 goals and got three tries for a total of 158 points. Six of the players made 40 or more appearances: Peter Goodfellow 48, J. D. Evans 46, Colin Howe 45, G. Beckingham and Eddie Thomas 43 and M. Gough 40.

Honours: First XV caps went to W. R. Evans and Lloyd Williams. Welsh caps were awarded to Cliff Morgan, Gareth Griffiths, Gordon Wells and Lloyd Williams who gained his first against Scotland. Lloyd had his best season to date with the club, proving his versatility by playing in both half-back positions, and partnering Cliff Morgan after Rex Willis was crocked against Swansea on 10th October and had played in only nine club matches. Lloyd in fact made 37 appearances.

Two floodlight matches were played. The first was on the Bristol City Association Football Club's ground at Ashton Gate where we met the Bristol Rugby Club and defeated them by 20 points to 13. J. B. G. Thomas of the "Western Mail" wrote that it was "A brilliant display of exhilarating open Rugby football in the highest traditions of the two clubs and crowned the Bristol Rugby venture into the floodlit world." We also played the Harlequins again at the White City, London, winning narrowly by 8 points to 6.

The Welsh Rugby Union staged a special match on the Cardiff Arms Park on 6th April between a Welsh XV and an International XV. The proceeds of the match, over £13,000, was handed over to the fund for the promotion of the forthcoming Empire & Commonwealth Games.

Our Roumanian tour was undertaken in May/June of 1957, the party being in charge of our officials W. B. Cleaver, Maldwyn James and Hubert Johnson. We were the guests of the Roumanian Rugby Federation. Two matches were played—against very tough op-