

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 crooked 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-

position which had been given ample time for coaching and pre-match training. The first match was played against Bucharest "A" and we lost by 6 points to 3 at "August 23 Stadium". The second match with Bucharest "B" at the Republic Stadium was won by 9 points to 6. A gate of 80,000 watched the first encounter. There appeared to be some suggestion of shadowing during the visit but the hospitality of the Roumanian Rugby Federation and that of the British Embassy, left nothing to be desired. The behaviour of our "ambassadorial" party was very good.

The Athletic XV was captained by F. C. Ferguson and played 32, Won 21, Lost 8 and Drew 3, scoring 465 points to 183. Some very good wins were achieved over Kenfig Hill 27-3, Treorchy 32-3, Gloucester 26-0, Totnes 32-3 and Wrexham 24-11. The captain made most appearances—in 29 matches, Brian Sadler 24, Stan Bowes 22 and Kingsley Jones 21. Top try scorers were Derek Murphy and R. J. Parsons 16, C. L. Davies 9, Colin Hewitt 8 and Kingsley Jones and Ken Richards seven each. Athletic caps were awarded to Cenydd Williams and Glyn Williams.

The Junior XV was captained by the tough and aggressive scrum half Graham Buck. It enjoyed a very successful season losing only one match to a very tough Aberavon Youth team out of a total of 27 matches 24 were won and two drawn. Good attacking football brought the Juniors a total of 475 points with only 68 against. The captain A. Williams and Peter Thomas played for the Welsh Youth against Germany. Our Youth were now a proving ground.

The new clubhouse: the balance sheet of the Cardiff Athletic Club showed that the cost of its building and equipping was £34,366 and that the Glamorgan County Cricket Club made an interest free loan of £6,000, and they were in no hurry to have the loan repaid. The bar takings amounted to £25,149 compared with £14,804 in the previous year. Donations of £350 were made to the Cardiff & District Rugby Union, £100 to the Cardiff Schools R.U., and £50 to the Cardiff & District Youth Rugby Union.

Obituary: one of the stalwarts of the past, W. J. Jenkins, captain of the club for 1913-14 passed away. He kept in close contact with the club after his playing days and at every Easter Monday for many years he was always in the company of the great English three-quarter Adrian Stoop of the Harlequins. Regrettably too, our great friend from the Nantes club, Henri Picherit, died. We had very close contact together since 1945 and were mainly responsible for the Cardiff/Nantes happy association. He was a grand chap, good organiser, one who did much for the cause of Rugby football in Wales and in France for the French Rugby Federation. Two of our well known vice-presidents of the Cardiff Athletic Club, Mr. W. H. Bowcott and Alex Calder also passed away. Both were characters of the past, great supporters of our old established Rugby club.

WE FELL TO THE WORLD'S BEST R.U. CLUB

PHIL TRESIDDER AUSTRALIA'S REPRESENTATIVE

1957-58. P47, W32, L7, D8. Points 483-214.

Eddie Thomas the versatile back-row forward was appointed captain and he nominated Cliff Morgan as his vice-captain, and so we had two Rhondda boys at the helm. Eddie, a Pentre grammar schoolboy had already been schooled in the arts of forward play with the Neath club and he joined Cardiff in 1952. He proved to be an excellent leader and the season's record was excellent by modern standards and he led his team to win the Welsh unofficial championship. Eddie decided to hang up his boots at the end of the season and he was appointed to the Rugby committee for 1958-59.

As was the case in 1956-57 we made another fine start losing only two matches up to the end of December, Cambridge University (A) on 29th October again took the Cardiff scalp by beating us by 10 points to six. The following Saturday we beat Oxford University at home by 11 points to eight. We played three former Blues against them in Alan Barter and Roddy Evans of Cambridge and C. D. Williams of Oxford.

Eight are an unusually high number of drawn matches, this number being equalled only twice before, those of 1949-50 and 1959-60. Those of the current season were Ebbw Vale (A) 3-3, Newport (H) 3-3, Bective Rangers (A) 9-9, Rosslyn Park (A) 8-8, Newport (A)

3-3, Coventry (A) 3-3, Neath (A) 3-3 and Bridgend (A) 5-5. Room for conjecture here!

Our losses were sustained against London Welsh (A) 8-6, Newport (H) 14-6, Llanelli (A) 8-3, St. Ives on the Cornish tour surprise this 6-3, Pontypool (H) 14-8—another surprise, and Gloucester (A) 3-0. The match we lost to Newport by 14-8 coincided unfortunately with the Ireland v. Wales international in Dublin. Six of our players were taking part, namely Alan Priday—his first cap, Howard Nicholls—his first cap, Cliff Morgan, Lloyd Williams, J. D. Evans—his first cap and W. R. (Roddy) Evans; Newport's representatives were Malcolm Thomas and Bryn Meredith.

Apart from our club match successes, our greatest triumph was our third victory over Australia on 14th December by 14 points to 11. Once again Cardiff truly rose to the great occasion, producing the Blue and Black magic in attack and all the necessary courage in defence, and in an incident-packed game Gordon Wells produced two brilliant tries. Dave Phillips of the "Football Echo" wrote of the match, "This was the classic game we had all hoped. Cardiff's superior strategy once again confounded the enthusiasm and virility of this young Australian XV". But the greatest independent testimony came from the official press correspondent with the Australian team, Phil Tresidder of the "Sydney Daily Telegraph", who wrote, "We fell to the world's best R.U. club" and that "It would be churlish indeed, for any Australian supporter to suggest that Cardiff did not thoroughly deserve victory in this splendid match". He had accompanied the Australian tourists of 1947 as did the popular Nick Shehadie, now perhaps a veteran and joyful scorer of a try in the match.

Civic hospitality was given by the city council under its Lord Mayor, J. H. Morgan, himself a well known sports writer. The council has always welcomed important Rugby football bodies to our city, a feature much appreciated by its senior Rugby club.

Following the usual opening match with the Cardiff & District R.U. we welcomed a very strong French combination from Auvergne and Limousin, during a brief tour to South Wales, organised by Monsieur Lucien Picquet from Auvergne, who, with Monsieur Lescombes of Limousin, headed a strong team including internationals Jean Colombier and Andre Domenech one of the toughest of French international forwards. Domenech was no stranger to Cardiff and he received a splendid ovation when he scored a try against us in the match which was full of incident. Four days later we met Group Captain Walker's XV, a selection brimful with internationals, we were very closely pressed to win by six points to three.

At Easter time we returned to a winning vein after our disastrous defeats of 1956-57 and Barbarians, Harlequins and Northampton were defeated in turn. The Cornish tour followed and for administrative convenience air travel was invoked.

During this arduous season of 47 matches we also played the Harlequins and Bristol in floodlit matches—both were drawn, with the former by five points each and the latter 9-9. Two unofficial matches were played with the Combined Services on 4th December—we won by 13 points to 8, and the R.A.F. on 25th February, losing this by five points to three. A missionary type of match was played at Gelligale Park, Ystrad Rhondda on 16th September, it was to inaugurate the first occasion the Borough of Rhondda had fielded a representative Valley XV. The sixth of these extra matches took place on Monday 21st April between Cardiff and a Mid-District Rugby Union XV at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypriid and the entire proceeds were in aid of the dependants of the late P.C. J. Michael Fitzgerald of the Glamorgan County Police who had assisted Cardiff Athletic in seasons 1955-56 and 1956-57, and previously for Ystrad and Bargoed Rugby Clubs. He had met an untimely death at an early age. John Maunder, one of our most promising forwards who had gained an Athletic XV cap in 1952-53 died after fighting against illness following a tragic accident at his work.

First team scorers: Howard Nicholls 20, Gordon Wells 14, Glyn John 13 and Ken Thomas nine obtained most tries. Alun Priday with 49 goals and two tries gained 128 points. Club caps were awarded to D. J. Hayward, Kingsley Jones, Ken Thomas and Cenydd Williams. It was Colin Howe with 41 who made most appearances. W. Roddy Evans, Alun Priday, J. D. Evans and Howard Nicholls gained their first international caps—Roddy Evans was superb in his line-out work in the series in which Cliff Morgan, Lloyd Williams and Gordon Wells also took part.