

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 Gelligaled 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.

Alas Cliff Morgan, Geoff Beckingham, Rex Willis and Eddie Thomas announced their retirements. As to Cliff Morgan, it was to my great regret that he would not let me nominate him for one supreme honour he does not now possess—that of being captain of the Cardiff Rugby Club.

Peter Nyhan was captain of the Athletic XV and he made a good job of it. Out of 33 matches only three were lost—to Newport United, twice, and once to Bristol United, three were drawn and the rest won. The points scored—548 to 147 indicates that the emphasis was on attacking play. One hapless club, Christchurch in Hampshire were the chief victims, being defeated by no less than 72 points to 5—twelve goals, four tries to one goal, 5 points. R. J. Parsons bagged five tries in the match and George Spear our popular full-back from Cilfynydd kicked all the twelve goals. Other notable victories were gained over Pontnewydd 44-6, Wasps Vandals 32-0 and Cardiff Medicals 32-3. Derek Murphy got the highest number of tries—13 and Ray Glastonbury the wing bagged 11. George Spear kicked 46 goals, scored one try, for a total of 107 points.

New caps were awarded to V. Davies, G. T. Ellis, Ray Glastonbury, Cliff Howe, George Spear and Peter Thomas (R.A.F.). The most appearances were put in by Ray Glastonbury 25, Cliff Howe 22, Peter Thomas and G. T. Ellis 21, George Spear 21 and 10 games with the 1st XV, Derek Murphy 15 and 10 with the 1st XV.

The Junior XV. Elwyn Williams, another member of the famous Taffs Well family was the Youth captain. Time was to show that he made a great contribution to the senior fifteens. The Juniors had quite a good season although only 18 games out of 29 fixtures could be played owing to so many high demands for players by the Cardiff & District Youth Rugby Union, which, at the end of the season reached the final of the Crawshay Cup competition in which no fewer than twelve of our juniors took part. Three of our players represented the Welsh Youth, namely Elwyn Williams, J. Regan and T. McCarthy, and for the fourth time in succession the juniors were the winners of the Cardiff & District Youth Rugby Union "Sevens". Another good year in the nursery. The club again made donations to junior Rugby in Cardiff which totalled £480. One of the oldest members of our club Augustus Hayes, a vice-president of the Athletic Club, passed away. Old timers will remember him as a cheery personality who was such a regular attender at all annual meetings of the Rugby club for many years.

"C. D." WILLIAMS DOUBLE OXFORD BLUE

OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER IS CAPTAIN

1958-59. P44, W22, L15, D7. Points 382-319.

C. Derek Williams was an old Cantonian, the fourth old boy of the school to be captain of our club, following the footsteps of R. A. Cornish, L. M. Spence and Peter Goodfellow. "C. D." not "Seedy" as Stan Bowes might pronounce, was an all-round athlete and double Oxford Blue for Rugby football and cricket. When playing Rugby for Berkshire in 1948 he was the county's half mile champion and was the torch bearer from Berkshire to the White City, London, for the Olympic Games.

Business took him away from Cardiff from time to time, and during his career he assisted the London Welsh and Neath clubs, but in all he played no fewer than 248 games for Cardiff and won two Welsh caps—both against France. Always fit, he was a splendid open side wing forward, a real worrier of outside half-backs, and Roy Burnett the very tricky running half-back of Newport was amongst other stars who "C.D." shadowed well.

Four of our great players had retired—Cliff Morgan and Rex Willis, world class half-backs, Geoff Beckingham our hooker, and Eddie Thomas another forward and last season's captain. Our younger players lacked direct attacking flair, and Lloyd Williams our scrum-half was the only player honoured by Wales. He was "C.D.'s" vice-captain. It was not surprising that we suffered our worst post-war season, the low number of points scored emphasised our lack of scoring power, and 319 points scored against us was high indicating some defensive weaknesses. But there were some good players in the pipeline,

Terry Donovan hooking, and H. M. Roberts and T. H. Norris were three who gained first team caps.

Our successes were few. The best was our win at Coventry in March by 28 points to 9 where Harry Morgan at centre helped himself to two dropped goals. We went down 21-0 to the Barbarians. When the old 'enemy' Newport arrived at Cardiff on 7th March they had shown they were our masters having already beaten us three times. They were hell bent on winning the fourth match to achieve the coveted honour of beating the Blue and Blacks four times in one season. Prospects for Cardiff were bleak. We had lost the three preceding matches to Aberavon, Newport and Llanelli. "C.D." our captain must have felt some little apprehension as to the result, a little "seedy" perhaps, but on a greasy pitch his team once more rose to the occasion and after a desperate struggle the match ended in a scoreless draw. Nevertheless, Bryn Meredith and his boys wasted no time in disposing of a firkin of ale which was one of the minor perks for a celebration victory.

Glyn John with but 12 tries was the season's top scorer of them, he bagged four in the Christmas tide match against the Watsonians, Ken Thomas and Gordon Wells scored six, and five were notched by Colin Hewitt, Ken Richards and H. M. Roberts. Alan Priday gained 134 points from 53 goals and four tries, well above a third of the total points scored by the team. Alan Priday with 40 appearances played most matches, D. J. Hayward and the captain in 39, Lloyd Williams in 36 and Kingsley Jones in 35.

The Athletic XV was captained by Peter Nyhan for the second season and a most excellent one it was. The record being P36, W31, L3, D2, points 614 to 154. The points scored were the highest number since Len Evans's 1948-49 season of 636. To lose only six matches in two seasons was a great achievement, and "The Rags" were fortunate in having such an excellent leader as Peter, a grand straight running centre with a beautiful pass and determined defence. Off the field he was also the happy and humorous leader, a captain worthy of the club's congratulations. Ray Glastonbury with 22 scored most tries, Peter Nyhan got 16, Ritchie Griffiths (brother to Gareth) 10 and an excellent forward G. T. Ellis 9. George Spear the full-back scored seven tries and kicked 39 goals for a total of 104 points. Athletic caps were awarded to Graham Buck, Graham Davies, Ritchie Griffiths, Steve Hughes, Tommy McCarthy, R. Parkhouse, Jim Sweeney, W. J. Thomas and Elwyn Williams.

Cardiff Juniors were captained by Haydn Thomas and the record was P27, W18, L8 and D1, with 362 points to 121. Some defeats were incurred when key players were engaged for the District in Crawshay Cup matches and internationals in which three were capped for Wales, B. Thorne, H. Thomas and the last of the Williams family of Rugby playing brothers, A. D. "Tony" Williams. The Juniors were now giving players to the Senior XV's and four of them gained Athletic XV caps Graham Buck, G. Davies, J. Sweeney and Elwyn Williams.

Sid Judd, this great footballer, died on 24th February 1959. He had gained most all the honours of the Rugby game. His illness had been lasting and tragic and had aroused much sympathy in Rugby circles. His family were not forgotten, and many charitable events were arranged culminating in a Past v. Present match on the Cardiff Arms Park on 30th April 1959. The Past XV included players who had served the club back in the early post-war days, Billy Cleaver, Jack Matthews, Les Manfield, Cliff Davies and Stan Bowes, there were very many players available and most willing to take part in this charity match, but who could not be accommodated. My own tribute to Sid Judd is contained in the programme of the match, written by Bryn Thomas of the "Western Mail", "He was a great footballer and a brave man."

A tragedy of a very different kind occurred during the end of the season; in the Welsh "Snelling" Sevens we were beaten in the very first round by Newbridge by six points to three—in extra time.

GORDON WELLS' CAPTAINCY

BUT "THE RAGS" AND YOUTH FIFTEENS STEAL THE HONOURS

1959-60. P44, W26, L10, D8. Points 428-285.

Another Rhondda boy, Gordon Wells was a fine all round athlete at St. Luke's, Exeter,