## W.R.U. PROPOSE NEW NATIONAL GROUND AT BRIDGEND

1962-63. P43, W26, L12, D5. Points 467-227.

D. J. Hayward was appointed captain and he nominated C. Howard Norris, another forward, as his vice-captain. A former under 15, and secondary school cap, ex-Newbridge and Loughborough College, 'Dai' Hayward joined Cardiff in 1957–58. He was one of the best flank forwards, quick to the break-down and link up play, an intelligent forward who drove his team hard; he gained six Welsh caps and a place in the Welsh international touring team to South Africa in 1964. In all, he made 325 1st XV appearances.

Most of last season's players were available, although two of our pack, Kingsley Jones and Keith Rowlands, after the British Lions South Africa tour of 1962, played in only 10 and 17 1st Team games respectively. Cyril Evans a fine attacking wing/centre joined us from Llanelli, but we still lacked scoring potential as the points for indicate. All clubs experienced an arctic winter with many cancellations of matches owing to frost and snow, from late December until March. In actual fact our Athletic XV suffered no fewer than ten successive cancellations from 26th December to 2nd March. Although the 1st XV did not play a match in January, the cancellations were restricted to only four owing to the commendable efforts of Frank Trott in organising straw protecting work. As the result of the work of his ground staff and committee, the club was enabled to play its three Christmas time matches, and Wales its international match with England.

Three defeats were suffered in September at the hands and feet of Ebbw Vale (first match of the season), Neath and Bridgend, but some form was recovered, and only one match was lost up to the end of February, but from March until the end we were beaten eight times, three successively at Easter time by Barbarians, Harlequins and Bridgend, and two on the 1st and 3rd of May in the extended season, to Cross Keys, home, and Neath away.

Our Cornish tour was most successful however, three wins over Penzance-Newlyn, Camborne and Penryn. The Penryn match was highlighted by the record of Alan Priday who was able to beat Wilfred Wooller's existing record of 163 points in 1938–39. Alan's total points for the season was 176 made up of nine tries, 43 converted and 21 penalty goals. Meirion Roberts scored 12 tries, Glyn Williams 11, D. J. Hayward and Steve Hughes nine and Cyril Evans eight. Dai Hayward scored three of his tries in the Penryn match.

Club caps were awarded to Cyril Evans, Cliff Howe, Steve Hughes and John Price who joined the club from Penarth and of whose club he was captain in the previous season. Alan Priday played in 41 matches and was closely followed by C. Howard Norris and Elwyn Williams with 39 each, and Meirion Roberts 37. The captain and vice-captain, David Hayward and Howard Norris gained their first international caps; Kingsley Jones, Keith Rowlands also played for their country.

The chairman's report on the Rugby club for the season said: "So ended a strange season—a season badly affected by arctic conditions for nearly three months, a season when Cardiff, inspired by precept and example by the skipper Dai Hayward, played open attacking football, trying always to make the games attractive for the spectators and enjoyable for the players. It is difficult to explain the falling off in form at certain periods."

The Athletic XV captained by Colin Howe, our veteran prop forward, had a most disappointing season which was much affected by arctic weather cancellations. Out of 32, only 19 matches were won, 10 were lost and 3 drawn. The scores for and those against were relatively low, and high respectively, being only 342 to 193. The absence of matches for "The Rags" between Christmas and 2nd March might be said to have interfered in the continuity of sustained effort. The top scorer was the full-back Alan Drew with 78 points from four tries and 29 goals. Joe Smith with seven, Dennis McCarthy with seven and Ritchie Wills six were those who scored most tries. Only three players qualified for Athletic XV caps, A. Glavin, Hadyn Thomas and a new tricky scrum half from Pontypridd, T. B. "Shrimp" Williams. Colin Howe the captain with 34 games including five with the 1st XV made most appearances.

As with the premier teams, the fixtures of our Youth XV were seriously curtailed, 16 being played of which 12 were won with four drawn, and the points scored 303 to 36. Islwyn Matthews the Juniors captain and Jim Mills the well built forward gained Welsh Youth international caps. In addition David Ivens a very neat half-back and Geoff Jones played for the Welsh Youth against the Midlands Youth fifteen. Jim Mills and a most promising full-back, Ron Hill, played in the Athletic XV late in the season.

The club again lost in the first round of the Snelling 'Sevens' going down to our Newport rivals. An 'extra' club match was played at Newbridge on 4th October to celebrate the opening of that club's new clubhouse. The popular Canadian Tourists for whom I was the Welsh Rugby Union Liaison Officer arrived in Wales to play a series of eight matches. Under their President R. C. 'Dick' Ellis they were very well received; they were very good amateurs and ambassadors. During their stay they were afforded the club's hospitality and they presented us with a splendid Canadian plaque. It was tragic that 'Dick' Ellis who was to lead another successful tour, and receive a Welsh one—all in the furtherance of Rugby football in Canada should collapse and die suddenly in 1974 at a most early age. Canadian Rugby circles and indeed all our home unions were shocked by the tragedy.

Our hon, secretary Frank Trott and the general secretary of the Cardiff Athletic Club were now busily engaged in running a successful sweepstake lottery which had made £5,037 in 36 weeks of the C.A.C.'s financial year. To assist, I undertook to take over the fixture making for the Rugby club in addition to being the club's programme editor.

The Cardiff Arms Park. In May 1963 the W.R.U. informed the club that the limitation of the number of matches on the Cardiff Arms Park was not satisfactory, and that eighty acres of land near Bridgend were available for a national ground. A contract had been signed with the Dunraven Estate. The subject became one of national interest, and particularly to the city of Cardiff, where international matches had been played since 1884. The management committee and all relevant bodies including our city council made it clear that every endeavour would be made to retain the Welsh international matches in Cardiff. A plan suggested by Hubert Johnson with Mr. John Webb the C.A.C. architect was mooted to provide a national ground for the W.R.U., and a club ground for our Rugby club on the Cardiff Arms Park, involving the withdrawal of the Cardiff Cricket Club to the Sophia Gardens, was put forward. Details as to the setting up of the new grounds have been written elsewhere, see "The Story of the Cardiff Arms Park".

Obituary. The death was announced of Idris Richards one of our most popular forwards and captains of the 'twenties', he had also served on our Rugby football committee.

The Cardiff Athletic Club also announced that three public men of the city, vice-presidents of the Cardiff Athletic Club and supporters of the Rugby club from their very early days, had passed away. They were Sir Robert Webber, O.B.E., J.P.; his brother Frank Webber, O.B.E., J.P.; and Mr. E. Ewart Pearce, M.B.E., J.P., who, only last season had served the city as its Lord Mayor.

## RE-UNION OF CARDIFF VICTORY TEAM OVER 1953-54 ALL BLACKS

#### PRESIDENT OF U.S.A. ASSASSINATED

1963-64. P45. W33, L9, D3. Points 508-254.

Points 508 to 254—exactly two points to one. Dai Hayward was appointed for a second term of captaincy, with Howard Norris his deputy. The record turned out to be much better than those of the past few seasons, but once again we made a poor start, losing four of our first five matches. We were to face up to the Fifth All Blacks on 23rd November. But we improved greatly, forgetting the defeats by Ebbw Vale, Bridgend, London Welsh and Coventry, and lost only one game—to Oxford University, before meeting New Zealand.

We had quite a number of newcomers for this season, and they contributed towards a successful one, they were: Cliff Ashton, Welsh international half back from Aberavon; Garry Davies, hooker from Treherbert; Maurice Richards a very young centre who

was to gain much Welsh fame; Mike Horgan a centre from Pontypridd; Billy Hullin the very crafty scrum half from Aberavon; Ritchie Wills a wing from Newport, and another fast wing, Byron Thomas from Tredegar, already a Welsh trialist, and a real plum, John O'Shea the under 23 prop from Newbridge. All except Garry Davies and Billy Hullin

earned 1st XV caps, but Hullin gained his Athletic XV cap.

We gained double victories over Aberavon, Pontypool, Llanelly, Swansea, Gloucester and the Harlequins. It was only on 29th April a postponed date for our fourth game with Newport, that they avoided the fourth defeat by Cardiff, as they managed to effect a drawn match of 11 points each. Deservedly so, as four of their stars, David Watkins, Brian Price, Stuart Watkins and Peter Rees were members of the Welsh international party which was to tour South Africa in May 1964. Our captain did not play in the last match, as he too, was Cardiff's sole representative on the Welsh tour. It was Bridgend who lowered our colours on 15th April, beating us at home by a solitary try to nil. We lost to Neath three days later, and had we won these last two matches. Cardiff would have won the Unofficial Welsh Championship. Bridgend's victory ended our unbeaten sequence of twenty-two matches, and in that period we had three wins in a row at Easter including the Barbarians, and a successful three match tour in Devon beating Torquey, Newton Abbott and Royal Navy in turn.

Cardiff v. New Zealand. After our disastrous start in September, we won the next eleven matches out of twelve losing only to Oxford University-9 points to three. Then came the long awaited day, 23rd November, on which we met the might of New Zealand Rugby, the Fifth All Blacks captained by one of their greatest ever forwards, Wilson Whineray, whose pack also contained another world class forward, Colin Meads (Pine Tree), and at full-back the great Don Clarke one of the greatest goal kickers in world Rugby, Dai Hayward our captain had trained and drilled our team pretty hard and they Intended, indeed they were confident, of emulating Bleddyn Williams' 1953-54 team that beat the All Blacks.

The visit of the New Zealanders of 1963-64 will ever be memorable. The eve of the match had been chosen to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Cardiff's victory of 1953-54, with the annual dinner in our clubhouse. Honoured quests included the honorary New Zealand manager, Frank Kilby, Ian Clarke, brother of Don Clarke, who had taken part in the Cardiff/N.Z. match of 1953-54, two of New Zealand's press men, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, Sir Thomas Macdonald, the Mayor of Christchurch, N.Z. (a Gowerton Welshman), Alderman C. A. Bence, M.R.C.S., Lord Mayor of Cardiff, the President of the W.R.U., and Lord Brecon.

Shortly before the dinner commenced came the most staggering and tragic news ever received in our own or perhaps in any other country in the world. Our clubhouse was atilled at the news that the President of the United States, Senator John F. Kennedy had been assassinated, shot through the head and neck whilst sat in a coach of a presidential cavalcade, to die in the arms of his wife Mrs. "Jackie" Kennedy, in Dallas Texas, U.S.A.

It was a subdued gathering which sat down to dinner, after the end of which, Lord Brocon then Minister of State for Welsh Affairs, spoke with feeling and sympathy, at the shock the tragedy would have throughout Britain and her Commonwealth.

The match next day proved to be a titanic struggle. Cardiff was able to field nine Welsh internationals, they were Alan Priday, Meirion Roberts, Kingsley Jones, W. J. "Billy" Thomas, C. Howard Norris, Keith Rowlands, David Hayward, and the half backs Lloyd Williams and Cliff Ashton; New Zealand fielded virtually a full Test team. The Cardiff pack played magnificently with Hayward an inspiring example of tireless play. it was certainly on top in the first half. John Billot in his history "All Blacks in Wales" wrote: "A goal kicker would have beaten the All Blacks. But Alan Priday missed four first half penalty shots, three of them from quite reasonable range. Ironically Priday had broken the club's scoring record the previous season with 176 points".

The All Blacks took the lead in the first half with a prodigious penalty goal kicked by Don Clarke from 50 yards out-one of the best kicks of his career. But our back row of Hayward, Cliff Howe and Elwyn Williams were exerting much pressure on the opposing half-backs, M. A. Herewini the Maori outside half and Chris Laidlaw at scrum, and when Herewini fumbled a pass near his own line, Cliff Howe was there to pounce and dive over for Cardiff's try that Priday converted. We led at half time, but in the second half, Herewini, as if to make amends for his first half fumble, dropped a goal from about 35 yards, to give the All Blacks the lead and exert stronger pressure on Cardiff who were beginning to tire. But there was no further scoring and a gallant Cardiff team had lost by a single point.

Perhaps our backs should have been given more chances to run with the ball. This was the view point of New Zealand's leading press man, Terry McLean who thought that Alan Priday could have turned the game in Cardiff's favour had he been more successful with kickable penalty goal efforts. But it was not to be although we had scored the only

In their last match in this country, the All Blacks treated an enthusiastic crowd to a splendid exhibition of Rugby when they beat the Barbarians on the Arms Park by 36 points to three, their captain Whineray scoring the final try after throwing a great dummy. New Zealand had lost only one match on the whole of the tour-to Newport on 30th October, by a splendid solitary dropped goal from the boot of John Uzzell who later joined the

Cardiff Club and gave much loyal service.

I was again appointed by the W.R.U. as its Liaison Officer for matches in Wales, being resident with the Fifth All Blacks at the Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl. For their transport to and from matches and for training, two coaches were engaged from Jones (Aberbeeg) Mon., whose proprietor was Ron Jones, a leading Abertillery Rugby Club official very well known as 'Jones the Bus'. I knew him very well and had often travelled in his coaches previously. He was really an excellent driver with good reflexes for getting in and out of traffic, and he possessed a splendid alto voice which he was wont to exercise freely from the wheel. At Porthcawl, Ron usually drove the players' coach, the other being driven by one of his employees named Albert, and was used by the reserve players and officials, etc. But Neil McPhail the All Blacks' coach thought that Ron's driving was really too fast when taking the actual team to a match, to Cardiff in particular and through his manager asked that Albert should drive his team-swap drivers as it were. When I tactfully approached Ron about the matter, he was very much hurt and let me know in no uncertain terms that during the previous season he had been graded as the second best coach driver in Great Britain. "Besides", he said, "what about my pride?"

He swapped seats with Albert, but for my part I would rather travel with Ron, he had character-he put quite a lot into the game of Rugby. But who would be a liaison officer?

Top try scorers were Steve Hughes 16, Cliff Howe 12, Elwyn Williams and Ritchie Wills 10. Cliff Howe's 12 equalled that of another forward Les Spence in 1936-37, but, for the record, Les Spence also converted a try. Cliff Howe made most appearances, in 40 matches, followed by C. H. Norris 39, Lloyd Williams 38, John O'Shea 37, Graham Davies 35 and the captain 33. Alan Priday and Howard Norris were made Barbarians, and the club honoured Dai Hayward's services by presenting him with a blazer badge.

Colin Howe was also honoured with a second term of captaincy of "The Rags", and the record was the best for four seasons, the results being: P35, W24, L5, D6, with 443 points to 172. Some of the best victories were over the Wasps Vandals 24-3, Old Illtydlans 28-3, Llanelli Wanderers 22-3, Mountain Ash 32-3, Barry 32-0, and Taffs Well twice by 30-3 and 33-9. Tony Williams, Ritchie Wills and Glyn Ellis each scored eight tries, Billy Hullin and Chris Jones seven. Ron Hill, the former youth fullback scored 63 points from 25 goals and one try. Athletic caps were awarded to Ron Hill, Billy Hullin, Chris Jones, Gareth Jones and Jim Mills, former youth players, the twin prop forwards from Nelson, Alun and Elfed Morgan, and H. D. Powell.

Our Junior (Youth) XV was captained by a promising forward Martin Truran, but the record was not as good as in former seasons, but with the development of Youth Rugby in Wales the opposition from more clubs was getting stronger. The results were: P26, W16, L7, D3, with points 258 to 101. The captain and Terry Stevenson gained Welsh Youth international caps, and quite a number of the team assisted Cardiff & District Youth. In seven-a-side tournaments, Martin Truran's Seven won the Cardiff & District one, and another Seven led by John Every won the Bridgend Tournament, the cup being presented by the wife of the South African Ambassador, Mrs. De Wet. Twenty-two boys formed the Junior Section and at every match twenty were ready to play.

It was decided to run a Cardiff Extras XV again—with effect from 1964-65, one of the reasons being that we were losing some very good Senior Youth players to other clubs

where many of them were getting into premier or second XV teams.

In February 1964 I announced my retirement from the club, having served it as a player and administrator continuously since I made my playing début against Newport on 2nd April 1921. I had also served on the C.A.C. management committee from 1933, and as a member of the Welsh Rugby Union from 1948 and I felt that the time had come to resign from these bodies also. The work was now very exacting and I was losing weight, and although pressed strongly by the three bodies to carry on, I felt that the time had come to make way for a younger man. Les Spence became the District Representative on the Welsh Rugby Union to replace me, and in 1973—74 became the second Cardiff Club official to hold the office of President of the Welsh Rugby Union. I agreed to carry on as Official Statistician for the Cardiff Rugby Club, and remain as a vice-president of the Cardiff Athletic Club.

# A WHALE'S TOOTH FROM THE TOURING FIJIANS

### FLOODLIGHTING ESTABLISHED

1964-65. P48, W30, L12, D6. Points 644-329.

Meirion Roberts was appointed captain, and for the third time, Howard Norris was the vice-captain. Meirion was a well built straight running centre, well grounded in the style of Cardiff High School teaching. An unselfish player, he created many breaks, half breaks and scoring chances and tackled strongly. He was somewhat in the mould of B. R. Turnbull of the 'twenties'. He earned eight Welsh caps, became a Barbarian and made 225 first team appearances. Newcomers included A. R. 'Tony' Pender—another Cardiff High School product, an intelligent back row forward who gained his Blue at Cambridge as a prop. A Welsh trialist, Tony made 151 first fifteen appearances before being transferred in his valuation profession to London where he duly joined the London Welsh, and also the Civil Service R.U. W. H. 'Billy' Raybould and Lyn Baxter, both secondary school products also made debuts.

We started off most auspiciously winning all of our eight September matches and scoring 223 points to 30. The Cardiff & District R.U. were beaten 52 points to nil, Alan Drew our full-back kicking seven goals and scoring a try. Pontypool (A), with Benny Jones and Clive Rowlands at half back, went down 16–0, Bristol 23–3, London Welsh 48–6 (twelve tries scored, Drew six goals and a try), Penarth 35–3, Coventry (19–9) included J. R. Melville the wing who last season at Coventry had scored a try for his team from his own line, Gloucester 16–9, and Penarth, for the second time, by 14–0. Drew

had scored 71 points in the month.

But it was the old enemy Newport who started us on the downward path. With Dave Watkins (capt.) and R. Prosser at half back they inflicted our first defeat on 3rd October at home by 10 points to 5, they beat us in two of the three matches played, one was cancelled on 6th March through frost and snow. Neath, and the Barbarians, each beat us twice, Mike Gibson for the latter dropped a goal against us in their 14 points to 11 win at Easter. We fell from grace in April losing four and drawing one out of ten fixtures, and on our North Western tour we lost to Liverpool 20 points to 6, Waterloo 6–3, beating only modest Chester 11–0; we were not able to turn out our best teams on this tour. However, there were some good performances and the number of points for the season were the highest since the 676 scored in Sid Judd's season of 1954–55.

Maurice Richards with 18 was the top scorer of tries, Steve Hughes got 17, our crafty scrum half Billy Hullin 12, the captain 11 and Tony Pender 10. Alan Drew with 45 goals and three tries scored 111 points—he got 115 with the Athletic XV. Elwyn Williams with 45, Howard Norris 44, Meirion Roberts 41, Maurice Richards 35, Dai Hayward 33, Steve Hughes and Billy Hullin 33, and John O'Shea 32, made most appearances. Keith Rowlands

played for Wales against Ireland and France. Club caps were awarded to Garry Davies, Alan Drew, W. Hullin and A. R. Pender.

Alan Drew was captain of the Athletic XV whose record was P38, W32, L5, D1, with 725 points to 194. This was an excellent record, and the number of points scored were the highest number since Peter Goodfellow's season of 853 points in 1959–60. Until 12th April only Bristol Utd. (on 9th September) and Newport Utd. had beaten "The Rags", the former by 8 points to 6, and the latter by 9–6, and then, rather unaccountably they lost to Llantwit Major in the semi-final of the Silver Ball Competition by 5 points to three at Bridgend. Pontypool Utd. by 10 points to 5, and Gloucester Utd. by 6–3 were the only other clubs to subdue "The Rags". Coincidentally, the five defeats were all at the hands of 'United' clubs except Llantwit Major. "

The top try scorers were W. H. Raybould with 11, Frank Wilson 10, G. Mainwaring and Tony Williams eight. Alan Drew's 115 points came from a total of 47 goals and three tries. Ian Robinson 27, John Hickey 22, Elfed Morgan and Harry Ridgewell each with 21 made most appearances. New Athletic XV caps were awarded to Lyn Baxter, John Davies, Roy Duggan, W. H. Raybould, Harry Ridgewell, John Huw Williams and Frank H. Wilson. Selections were made from a total of 82 players during the season.

It was another successful season for the Youth XV which was captained by David Ivins, the record being: P26, W20, L5, D1, with 466 points to 154. These Juniors again won the Cardiff & District Youth 'Sevens' and the Welsh Youth Open Tournament at Bridgend. Only three points were scored against our Youth Seven in the latter competition. P. Lyn Jones scored no fewer than 27 tries in 21 matches, and Terry Stephenson 26 in 23 matches; Terry played three times for the Welsh Youth XV. A good season this.

The resuscitation of the Cardiff Extras XV was wise, the previous Extras XV had operated for three seasons in the early twenties. Twenty-six matches were played of which twenty were won and six lost, with 582 points scored to 102, under the experienced captaincy of George Davey the erstwhile Llandaff and Cardiff senior teams' forward. The biggest victories were gained over Cowbridge Seconds by 53 points to three, Caerphilly Seconds 40–0, Llandaff Technical College 57–0, Llanishen 40–0, Cardiff Fire Service 44–0, and Queen Mary's College, London, by 41–5. The new Extras won the Cardiff & District 'Sevens', beating Whitchurch 14–0, Old Tauntonians 6–3, Cathays H.S. Old Boys 8–3, and in the final, St. Peters 8–5, it was a promising re-start for our fourth XV, Peter Nyhan nick-named them "The Tatters".

The Fijians toured Wales and on 26th September played the Welsh XV which included Maurice Richards and Dai Hayward, in a most memorable match of free flowing and thrilling Rugby football to the great delight—and support—of a huge Welsh crowd. In all, 13 tries were scored, seven by Wales and six by the Fijians whose remarkable prop forward. S. Walisoliso, helped himself to three, restricting the Welsh victory to 28 points to 22. These likeable and modest Fijian tourists whose headquarters in Wales was in Cardiff were afforded all the amenities of our club during their stay, and as an earnest mark of their appreciation, the whole of their party visited our Museum Room on a special occasion. There, in a most moving ceremony, both verbal and vocal as became their tradition when presenting rare gifts, their leader placed a garland with a whale's tooth suspended on the shoulders of Les Spence, our chairman, for presentation to the Cardiff Club. In the sense of presentations, this one was, to me I think, the most moving and touching I had experienced in my Rugby football life.

Floodlighting was established at the Cardiff Arms Park on 7th October 1964. It was an inevitable innovation, made in particular to partly offset—it could never fully do so—the ever increasing scope of television and its effect on fixtures and dwindling receipts of all senior gate taking clubs. The Barbarians, our long established friends since 1890, readily agreed to play us in a match to celebrate the occasion. The Barbarians won the match by 12 points to 8, as if to emphasise the cause of the celebration. What the club really did celebrate was the winning of the Floodlight Alliance Tournament of the senior Welsh clubs having floodlighting, having disposed of Ebbw Vale, Bridgend, Cross Keys, and in the final Llanelli by 14 points to 8. The cost of the floodlighting installation, etc. was £5,829. The club received £646 in television fees.