

In the club's senior seven-a-side tournaments, we were defeated in the final of the Gala Sevens by Loughborough College by three goals and a try, to one goal and a try. Newport beat us in the third round of the Welsh "Snelling" Tournament at Swansea by one goal, two tries, 11 points to nil.

Gwyn Davies was doing a good job as programme editor covering four teams, with interest and good humour. Miss Babs Filer celebrated her thirty-five years as stewardess of the club. Les Gerry had now superseded Mr. Albert Francis as head groundsman. Dr. J. H. Naysmith and his 'sawbones' colleagues were serving players' needs, as were Tom Holley, Ted Arcas and Keith Harse. Our St. Albans Military Band was playing as brightly as ever, Sousa's marches were never entirely forgotten. It is a great joy to have this band still with us, continuing to improve with sound, and dress to please us all. Alan Priday had captained the Cardiff Cricket Club. Heads of teams in connection with the establishment of the new national and club grounds were signed.

KEITH ROWLANDS CAPTAIN

GERALD DAVIES AND D. KEN JONES 'SIGN ON'

1965-66.

Keith Rowlands was our appointed club captain, and he nominated Steve Hughes our dapper little Rhondda wing as vice-captain; the records of our four teams were:—

	P	W	L	D	For	Against	
First Fifteen	47	35	9	3	583	198	Keith Rowlands
Athletic Fifteen	37	30	7	0	476	176	Alan Priday—John Davies
Extras Fifteen	22	13	9	0	260	156	Tony Canham
Juniors Fifteen	24	13	10	1	268	176	A. Williams

Keith Rowlands our 6ft. 5ins, 16½ stone forward who joined us from Llanelli in 1961-62 was now a seasoned campaigner, possessing all the top honours of the Rugby game. In 1962 for example, with Campbell-Lamerton's British Lions in South Africa, Keith played in no less than eighteen out of the twenty-four tour matches. His qualities of leadership were rewarded with the honour of leading Cardiff in two successive seasons. After his retirement, he became a member of the committee from 1967-68, and for season 1974-75 he was elected as a member of the East District of the Welsh Rugby Union (District "B" to be precise) under the Presidency of one of our former great players Harry Bowcott, and became a member of the Welsh Selection Committee—with another great Lions player, John Dawes. Like another Irish international forward who played for Cardiff, Des O'Brien, Keith is a leading representative for the Guinness Brewery Company, "Guinness for Strength" their advertisements read. At the young age of thirty-seven the challenge of Rugby world administration lies before him. I wish him well, he has the qualities to do so.

1965-66 saw an intake of some excellent newcomers. Among them was D. Ken Jones the brilliant, elusive, side-stepping centre, who, after his Gwendraeth Grammar Schooldays played for the Llanelli Club during 1960-65. He gained schoolboy and senior Welsh caps, a British Lions tour, was a Barbarian and Oxford Blue, and played over one hundred matches for Cardiff, his last, nostalgically enough, being against Oxford at the Cardiff Arms Park on 7th November 1970.

T. G. R. (Gerald) Davies from Llansaint in Carmarthenshire, graduated through Q.E. Grammar School, Loughborough College, Cardiff and London Welsh, to become one of the greatest Welsh threequarters of all time with a devastating side-step and an astonishing turn of speed. To gain further degrees, he went up to Cambridge for three seasons from 1968 and captained his Varsity in 1970. A brilliant 'sevens' player he has already played 24 times for his country and is most likely to gain further honours. Prior to assisting London Welsh he had already played on 62 occasions for Cardiff, and by reason of a new appointment at the Welsh Sports Centre is likely to join Cardiff again in 1974-75.

D. Robert Morgan, another strong running Llanelli wing joined us whilst at Cardiff Teachers Training College, he was already the holder of nine Welsh caps and returned to

his former club during 1966-67. Ken Jones, Morgan, newcomers W. Clive Evans a brilliant but short flank forward from Bridgend Sports Club, John Huw Williams another prospect from the local training college—a splendidly balanced running wing who perhaps should have exploited his natural talents better than he did, all gained club caps as did our own Lyn Baxter.

The advent of these players augured well for Cardiff's traditional attacking Rugby, five of them took part in the match between Bonymaen and the Athletic XV at home on 18th September, a match most pleasing to our loyal band of "Rags" supporters. Time and time again Keith Jones and Gerald Davies split the Bonymaen defence wide open and played leading parts in Bonymaen's massacre by 57 points to three. Thirteen tries were scored and Ken Jones helped himself to three, Gerald Davies two, John Huw Williams two, Chris Jones two, John Price, Tommy McCarthy and Les Gauntlett one each, whilst Tony Williams scored one and kicked eight goals, Colin Prescott also got one conversion.

It was quite a successful season with only nine defeats. Bridgend accounting for three of them, the first of which dealt unkindly with Alan Priday who sustained a broken jaw and caused him to relinquish the captaincy of "The Rags" to John Davies. Both Varsities defeated us, Cambridge on the Cardiff Arms Park with Dennis Gethin kicking four goals and Mike Gibson contributing a try. The other four losses were to Welsh rivals Llanelli, Swansea, Newport and Neath. On a short tour to Cardiff and Llanelli, we received Old Rugby Roma of Italy a sort of Barbarian combination with representatives from France, Roumania and Czechoslovakia in the team. It turned out to be a grim type of game with a few frayed tempers being shown. Malcolm Lewis of "The Echo" thought "It was like Spaghetti without the Bolognese". We won 14 points to three. We also met the Scottish "Co-optimists", a popular club founded for mainly charitable purposes by that great Rugby character Jock Wemyss; we won this flood-light encounter by 16 points to three.

The Coventry away match (we won 11-9) was notable for a civic reception and dinner given to both teams by the Lord Mayor of Coventry who was a Welshman from Tylors-town. The return game at Cardiff was suitably reciprocated by Cardiff's Lord Mayor, Mrs. Miriam Bryant. She was rewarded by a narrow Blue and Black victory by six points to five. It was a rarity to see two brothers in opposition at full back in Cardiff's game with Newport on 13th November, Brian Anthony for the former and his brother John for the latter—the home team won 11-3. We required 44 points to win the Flood-light Alliance Competition over Ebbw Vale and almost succeeded with 42 points to eight.

Maurice Richards with 17 tries headed the list, Steve Hughes scored 15, Billy Hullin 11 and Robert Morgan 10. John Patrick O'Shea made most appearances, 44 times, Tony Pender, Billy Thomas and Elwyn Williams each played 40. Our captain was capped for Wales. The club and two of our players, Howard Norris and D. Ken Jones were honoured with selection for the British Lions tour to New Zealand and Australia of 1966. We defeated Newport in the final of the Welsh Snelling Sevens at Cardiff by 23 points to 20 after extra time, the most exciting final since the inauguration of the tournament.

It will be seen that the Athletic team, taken over by John Davies had a most creditable record. John, a product of Cowbridge Grammar School, Welsh Secondary School cap, and Welsh 'Dragon' to South Africa in 1956, already had experience as a forward with Pontypridd and London Welsh. He subsequently served on the Rugby committee and is currently acting as coach with our Youth XV. Only two matches were lost up to the end of February, to Kenfig Hill and Bristol United. In March, Bonymaen at home exacted vengeance for the 57 points to three defeat at Cardiff, by winning eight points to nil. The leading try scorers were John Huw Williams 12, P. Lyn Jones 10 and Frank Wilson seven. Alan Drew suffered, as Alan Priday had, with a broken jaw but he scored four tries and kicked 17 goals in his restricted appearances. New Athletic caps were Robert Furness, John Harding, P. Lyn Jones and Gwyn Thomas the prop from Swansea who had played seventeen 1st XV games as well as thirteen for the Athletic.

The newly re-formed Extras XV were not too successful, some of our former youth players were tempted to play for senior clubs and Tony Canham had to call upon no fewer than 61 players for the 22 fixtures. R. Hugh Williams was top scorer with eight

tries and six goals, Phil Walsh got seven tries and Peter Karrie five. Peter Thomas ("Pies") played in 17 matches and nine for the Athletic and two for the 1st XV.

Neither did our Juniors—the Youth XV have a very successful season. The annual report prepared by the late Bill Lewis showed that this unit started with 22 players and that eight had left us within three weeks. Nevertheless, Terry Stevenson and Nigel Gay gained Welsh Youth international caps. In the Bridgend Open Youth Sevens our Juniors were beaten in the final by Bridgend. They had now appeared in three finals and three semi-finals in this competition. Duncan Brown, Les Jones and Dennis McCarthy continued to take care of the Juniors.

Brian Mark was doing excellent work as programme editor, even the Italians were welcomed—in Italian. His biographies of our players were most excellent reading Roy Bish the former Aberavon centre, now senior lecturer at our teachers training college joined us as coach and has made an excellent job of this work. Incidentally he has been instrumental in advising students as to prospects with the Cardiff Club. Alan Priday was captain of the Cricket Club and Les Spence captain of the Bowls. Dai Hayward, Steve Hughes and Meirion Roberts decided to hang up their boots. However, Dai Hayward changed his mind at a late date and agreed to accept the captaincy of the Cardiff Athletic XV for 1966–67.

Obituary. The management committee of the Cardiff Athletic Club suffered a very great loss in the sudden and tragic death of its former chairman T. Wyndham Richards. A well known schoolmaster of this city he had been an active member of the Tennis Section. I had been closely associated with him on the management committee since 1930 and I knew him to be a most efficient chairman, conscientious and self effacing, giving very much of his time in guiding the welfare of the Athletic Club through many difficult seasons. He was to be greatly missed by his club, and all his associates of the city. Mr. Hubert Johnson succeeded him.

FOURTH AUSTRALIANS BEATEN. WE TOUR SOUTH AFRICA.

DEBUT OF GARETH EDWARDS

THE LAST CRICKET MATCH ON CARDIFF ARMS PARK

The records of our teams for 1966–67 were as follows:—

	P	W	L	D	For	Against
First Fifteen	47	35	9	3	691	322
South African Tour	5	2	2	1	84	71
Athletic XV	38	34	3	1	977	227
Extras XV	23	17	5	1	292	109
Juniors XV	26	12	11	3	276	161

1966–67 was a most eventful season, an unfortunate one for our captain Keith Rowlands in his second term as he broke his leg in our home match with London Welsh on 31st December and did not play again. This was an unfortunate coincidence as Elwyn Williams had also broken a leg, playing against London Welsh at Crystal Palace on 10th September and it kept him out of the game until 18th March. Last season there were two broken jaws sustained by our two full-backs Alan Priday and Alan Drew. Our vice-captain Billy Hulin deputised for the captain until the end of the season and did the job well.

We had an excellent intake of some very promising players, Dennis Gethin the Cambridge Blue full-back, Phil Morgan to improve our outside half problem, Keri Jones the very fast wing from the training college, D. J. "Bill" Carling a Welch Regiment officer a rugged prop, and Gareth Edwards. Maurice Richards was now a class player, Gary Samuel was also available and was versatile. These players, together with the rest of the established ones, helped the team to play some really excellent running Rugby when at full strength.

Gareth Edwards was a nineteen-year-old young man from the village of Gwaun-cae-Gurwen, with a background of Rugby, developed at Millfield College where he gained Secondary School international caps, and at Cardiff Teachers Training College. He made his débuts with Cardiff Athletic XV—"The Rags"—which beat Briton Ferry (A) on 10th September by 30 points to 5, and Bristol Utd. (A) 14th September, a drawn match of six points each. In the former match he scored three tries, and in the latter, the six points, one try and one penalty goal. Three days later he made his 1st XV début against Coventry at home which was won by 24 points to six. I well remember entering these personal feats in the club's official records, and thinking, "We've got something here!" Gareth made his first overseas tour with Cardiff, to South Africa in May 1967, and was to make another seven—to South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Rhodesia for the British Lions, Barbarians (Canada) and Rhodesia for Cardiff.

Having played with, and watched some of the club's great scrum halves for more years than I care to remember—Tommy Dean, Bobby Delahay, Maurice Turnbull, Haydn Tanner, Rex Willis and Lloyd Williams, I now rate Gareth as the best of them all. Present day Rugby has been revolutionised—for the better—and accepted coaching methods and law changes have involved the scrum half more than any other player of the team, particularly around the base of the scrum, the line out, and at—and in—the rucks. Gareth is superior in all the essentials, well built and strong, courageous and a most determined runner. He has the longest of passes, is a prodigious kicker of the ball and crafty touch finder. Many thousands of Rugby men and countless millions of sportsmen have been fortunate to see him in the flesh and on television, scoring two of the most memorable tries in Rugby history. The first, his 80 yards solo run for a try for Wales against Scotland at Cardiff in 1972, and the culminating try after a 90 yards movement by the Barbarians in their greatest and most brilliant victory over New Zealand at Cardiff in 1973. At the time of writing, Gareth has already captained Wales eight times, holds 35 Welsh international caps, and is currently touring as vice-captain of the most successful Lions of all time in South Africa; playing at the peak of his career as did Cliff Morgan on the Lions Tour to South Africa of 1955. He is now rated as the world's best scrum half, and I heartily concur. I would indeed like to see him as captain of the Cardiff Rugby Club before retiring from the game he has so much adorned.

On 3rd September we received the West German XV, defeating them by 41 points to three, John Huw Williams scoring three tries and Dennis Gethin kicking eight goals. The Germans were a very sporting lot but lacking in basic skills. Cardiff were much the fitter team after strenuous pre-season training. The Germans must have noted a lot, and would benefit from more contact with British Rugby clubs.

Except in the matter of points, 1966–67 was exactly the same as 1965–66 in terms of results and we had many successes, particularly the victory over the Australians, and over our Newport rivals by 27 points to nil. At Christmas time we won four matches in eight days against Welsh Academics, Liverpool, U.A.U and London Welsh. After the latter match, in which the captain had broken his leg, we lost two in succession to Aberavon and Coventry in January, but under Billy Hulin's acting captaincy, only two more were lost until the end of the season, although they were heavy ones—to Newport 17–0 and Bridgend 21–8. We won all of our April matches, the last three being on the Devon tour against Torquay, Newton Abbott and Paignton.

Our greatest achievement was beating the Australians on Guy Fawkes day, there were some fireworks, but they were set alight by Cardiff as we won by 14 points to eight and recorded our fourth successive victory over Australia, although New South Wales "The Waratahs" beat Cardiff in that isolated fixture of 1927. Roy Bish had coached our team well, they rose to the occasion and the pack played magnificently, denying possession to the Wallabies and harrassing them sharply when they did have it. Keith Rowlands and Lyn Baxter were dominant in the lines out. Billy Hulin at scrum half was a match winner, out-smarting his opposite number Ken Catchpole, scoring a try and a drop goal. He also made the break for Ken Jones's try, which Ray Cheney converted and also kicked a penalty goal. S. Boyce scored Australia's try which was converted by their full-back J. Lenehan. P. Hawthorne their half-back dropped a goal. John Thornett their captain was