

poor and uncustomary display against the tourists. At the dinner given to the two teams, Brian Mark, on the subject of apartheid and sport, quoted the words of the late President of the U.S.A., John Kennedy, which were: "There are many things which divide many nations; let us therefore cherish those things which unite us".

After the defeat by South Africa, our fortunes improved and only three matches were lost until the end of the season, Bridgend beat us 14-3, Aberavon 14-9 and the Barbarians by 30-28. The Barbarian match was a pulsating affair, and one of the most entertaining of games between the two clubs. The opposing full-backs distinguished themselves; Tony Jordan for the Barbarians kicked six goals—three conversions and three penalties, and for Cardiff Robin Williams kicked seven—two conversions, one dropped and four penalties.

Our successes were three wins and a draw with Newport, and doubles over Swansea, Pontypool, Bristol and London Welsh; there were three victories in Devon on tour, against Paignton, Exeter and Newton Abbot. In Dublin, Bective Rangers were beaten 14-9 and Howard Norris played his 400th game for the 1st XV. In May we again won the Welsh National Sevens, Tony Williams once again earning the accolade of "Player of the Sevens Tournament", his display was an example of his Sevens craft and skill for the youngsters.

P. Lyn Jones and Alec Finlayson with 13 apiece headed the try scorers, Mervyn John was next with 12, followed by Stuart Watkins and Tony Williams who each got 10. P. Lyn Jones with 33 appearances was the only new 1st XV cap. John Hickey took part in 35 matches, Mervyn John and Alec Finlayson in 32, Llyn Baxter 30, Ian Robinson 29, John O'Shea, Howard Norris and Tony Williams 25 each.

Cardiff Athletic XV's record was P32, W26, L6, Points 656-243. John Davies was re-appointed captain and the results were excellent although not so outstanding as the three previous seasons. In all he called upon no fewer than 73 players, and quite a number of our Juniors were called upon. On four occasions John Davies's "Rags" topped more than 40 points, namely over Old Iltydians 48-9, Barry 60-3, Old Iltydians 49-3 and Taibach 47-0. Nick Williams bagged four tries in the Barry match but it was the full-backs who enjoyed themselves in these matches: Ray Cheney against Barry kicked nine goals and scored a try, and eight goals against Taibach; John Uzzell kicked eight goals in the first match with the Old Iltydians, and Robin Williams eight in the second one. Ray Cheney scored 136 points in the season and John Uzzell 82.

The leading try scorers were Gabe Servini with 13, Terry Stephenson 12 and Brian Coles eleven. The captain made most appearances, in 22 games, and five new caps awarded went to Paul Barry, John H. James, Lindsay Lewis, Wyn Llewellyn and Gabe Servini.

Our Youth XV record was P31, W21, L8, D2, Points 313-186. It was the best season since 1963-64 and Steve Solman was captain. There seemed to be no doubt that the squad system and organised coaching, again centred at Whitchurch Secondary School, was the main factor in the Juniors scoring more than 500 points. No less than thirteen of them played for the Cardiff & District Youth and five of them took part in the final trial of the Welsh Youth Rugby Union.

Roger Harris played in three matches for the 1st XV and Steve McCann, Dave Morris, Roger Goodfellow, Paul Jones, Leighton Drummond and David Burke appeared on occasions for the Athletic XV. The leading try scorers were Chris Bradshaw 18, Dave Morris 17 and Roger Goodfellow 16. From mixed scores Keith Mead totalled 76 points, Henry Davies 60 and Peter Bolland 50. The Player of the Year award went to Roger Harris, and Colours—in the form of a specially designed tie—for those who had played in twenty matches or more, were awarded to Peter Bolland, Dave Morris, Peter Harry, David Francis, Leighton Drummond, Bob Lynch, Andy Woodward, Gordon Derrick, Peter Hosgood, Bobby Diamond and Paul Kerrigan. Kerrigan in his first season played in 29 matches. A good season for our Youth.

During this season, Frank Trott who had served the club as player and official for many seasons, was to have taken over the post of General Secretary to the Cardiff Athletic Club, but dogged by ill-health, decided not to accept the post after having been appointed Haydn Wilkins stepped into the breach and succeeded to the Hon. Secretary post for the Rugby Club. In the latter part of the season, we lost the services of our captain, John O'Shea as the result of a business promotion with Courage—the brewery firm, in the

Cornwall area and was soon accepted as a member of Penzance-Newlyn Rugby Club. As the result of his appointment as the chairman of the club, Brian Mark gave up the honorary post of programme editor, and I compliment him on his many excellent issues of interesting Rugby matter. D. J. Hayward took over from Brian Mark.

Obituary. Archie Skym, John Llewellyn and Bill Lewis passed away. Archie Skym was Cardiff's captain in 1934-35—he "presided" over the last players' outing to Minehead. After his retirement he became a bowler of repute. When I took up the game we both played for Cardiff Athletic Bowling Club; it was a pleasure to reminisce about our past rugger times. He married a farmer's daughter of Lisvane and was buried in a small chapel in that village. Friends from near and far came to pay their last tributes. John Llewellyn, a most likeable young man served Cardiff in the period 1950-57. John (his full initials J. E. G.) will be remembered as Cardiff's gallant full-back in its glorious win over New Zealand in 1953-54. After his retirement John worked hard—and with success—to enable Taffs Well Rugby Club acquire its own ground and clubhouse and enhance its reputation. Bill Lewis will best be remembered for his work with Cardiff's Juniors and his service with the R.F.C. committee. Apart from his immediate family, his premature passing, after a long and painful illness, was a shock to all his sporting friends.

Cardiff Athletic Club. It was Mr. Ken H. George who succeeded Mr. David Grant as General Secretary. Mr. George was well known as one of the Rugby club's past members, incidentally as a past captain of the Llandaff Rugby Club. His appointment coincided with a most difficult period in the life of the Cardiff Athletic Club particularly regarding the changes of grounds affecting the C.A.C., the W.R.U. and the Rugby Club. An onerous appointment to be sure.

## WELSH NATIONAL AND CARDIFF'S NEW GROUNDS OPENED

### CARDIFF'S BIGGEST DEFEAT—WE ARE HUMILIATED IN FRANCE

1970-71. P44, W29, L10, D5. Points 699-429.

The appointed captain was John Hickey who had joined the club in 1963-64 after playing in Junior football with Llandaff Youth and the Cardiff & District Union Club, Canton. He was a back row forward of much aggression, about 6 ft. 2" ins. and weighing more than 14 stone. His cover defence was excellent and he never shirked going down to the ball. John had already 170 first team games to his credit, and his nominee as vice-captain, Gareth Edwards needs no introduction here.

The most notable events of the season, historic in the annals of the club, and the Cardiff Arms Park, were the official openings of the Welsh Rugby Unions national ground and Cardiff's new club ground, on what, readers will now remember, was formerly the ground of the Cardiff Cricket Club. The W.R.U. event was celebrated with a match between the R.F.U. President's (W. C. "Bill" Ramsay) team and the Wales team on 17th October. The club event was celebrated with a match between Cardiff and the Welsh Rugby Union President's (Ken Harris, hon. treasurer) XV. The Cardiff Teachers Training College laid on a trampoline display by the students and a bevy of attractive females dressed in jerseys of Blue and Black were selling programmes, the date was Saturday 31st October 1970.

Prior to the kick-off by Cardiff's Lord Mayor, Alderman T. E. Merrell's seventeen of our past captains were introduced on to the field by Bledodyn Williams, their names in order of 'seniority' were D. E. Davies, Tom Lewis, Tommy Stone, L. M. Spence, W. Wooller, Dr. Jack Matthews, Bledodyn Williams, W. E. Tamplin, Rex Willis, Malcolm Collins, Peter Goodfellow, Eddie Thomas, Lloyd Williams, D. J. Hayward, Meirion Roberts, Keith Rowlands, C. Howard Norris and John O'Shea. For the record Cardiff beat the W.R.U. President's XV by 17 points to eight. Robin Williams kicking five goals — netting 14 of our points and received the press accolade of 'Prince of Place Kickers'. The opposition included the internationals Tom Keirnan of Ireland, W. Lauder of Scotland, Ian Hall, R. 'Chico' Hopkins and W. Raybould of Wales, as well as the then uncapped players, J. J. Williams then of Bridgend, Alan Martin of Aberavon, Terry Cobner of Pontypool



and Tommy David then of Pontypridd. The celebration dinner (and dance) which took place at the Park Hotel was a most happy occasion and the proceedings animated. At the top table I was loudly hailed from the floor by Dr. Jack Matthews, W. E. Tamplin and other 'oldies' to render "Are you from Dixie". I complied, and was afforded police protection by Sergeant Ian Holl of the South Wales Constabulary who had played for the President's XV.

As to the season's results, there was rather an indifferent start, the club losing six and drawing three matches by the end of November. Of the defeats, I quote the remarks of mine in the annual report of the C.A.C.—"But the most bitter cross to bear was the defeat in France at the hands of Provence D'Auvergne on 11th November by 41 points to six, the biggest defeat in our history. I am sure that, with the knowledge of our strong fixture lists in mind and calls on the players, our committee will in future investigate the strength of the opposition before sending teams to France to play representative, provincial and other very strong French combinations and so avoid damage to our reputation". For the French match, played at Clermont Ferrand, we lacked the services of Barry John, Gary Samuel, Gareth Edwards, Alec Finlayson, Lyn Baxter and Gerald Wallace, we were run dizzy!

After the 1st December however, there was an improvement and only three more matches were lost, but 429 points scored against us indicated defence weaknesses and the value of the try was still at three points. One of the best performances was the win by 14 points to 12 at home against Coventry with a weakened team, our threequarter line and about half the pack having been injured. Barry John's boot won Cardiff's home game with Llanelli, his four drop goals in the match (the club record) for 12 points topping Llanelli's nine. He appeared to shape up to attempt a fifth from quite a favourable position, but changed his mind, and passed the ball out. Cambridge University gave us a hiding by 22 points to six and it was Gerald Davies's five tries which shattered Cardiff's defences. Against Newport in February Barry John and Edwards contributed 14 points out of Cardiff's 17 points to nine win. It was our young full-back David Hoyle who got Cardiff's try, and John Anthony kicked Newport's three penalty goals. We scored eight tries in our win over St. Lukes, Exeter by 30 points to eight.

The season's top scorers were: tries, P. Lyn Jones 15, Neil Williams and Roger Lane 13, John Bevan 10 in eleven matches. Roger Lane's 13 equalled the record of Mervyn John for forwards. Barry John's mixed bag brought him 114 points which included 9 dropped goals. Young David Hoyle's scoring brought him 83 points in 19 matches. New caps were awarded to Neil Collins, Meirion Davies, Gareth Edwards, Mike Knill, Roger Lane, Gary Samuel and Gerald Wallace. Ian Robinson made 43 appearances, our captain John Hickey 36 in spite of missing the last five games through injury, he played with great endeavour. Wales won the Triple Crown and Grand Slam and three of Cardiff's players who participated were John Bevan, Barry John and Gareth Edwards, and these, together with Gerald Davies chosen from London Welsh also toured with the British Lions to New Zealand and Australia.

The Athletic XV was again captained by John Davies and the record was P31, W22, L6, D3, Points 541—254. It was a record similar to last season except that the points scored were less. John Davies was injured in "The Rags" match with Bridgend Sports on 6th February and Howard Norris took over the captaincy until the end of the season. Owing to his injury in the first team opening match with South Wales Police, Norris had to wait another season before breaking the 1st XV players' match record. But he played in fifteen "Rags" games. The top try scorers were Neil Collins 11, Nick Williams 10, Stuart Watkins 8, P. Lyn Jones 7 and J. H. James, D. Ken Jones, Ian Lewis and John Regan each scored five. In his début against Gloucester Utd., Rhys Williams, son of BBC's Alun Williams dropped two goals.

Elwyn Williams who had already played in more than 300 matches with the 1st XV took part in 21 matches for the Athletic XV. In "The Rags" final match of the season with Barry, the club coach filled the breach, and a forward—the now well known international hooker of today—Robert Windsor, played in five matches for the Athletic and four in the 1st XV. Cardiff's loss and Pontypool's gain. Amongst six Youth players who assisted

"The Rags" was Martin Pengilley and in the premiers' last match of the season he scored 11 points from the full-back position in his début. Athletic XV caps were won by Peter Davies, David Hoyle, Ian Lewis, John Regan and Stuart Watkins. Two big wins were achieved over Barry 52-0 and Cwmgrawch 41-3. In the Barry match John Uzzell kicked eight goals and P. Lyn Jones and Nick Williams each had the rare distinction of scoring six tries in a match, the former against Cwmgrawch and the latter against Llanelli Wanderers. The Athletic XV played a French team on 28th December, Stade Clermontoise. It was almost a last minute arrangement as the French team had been let down, very late, by another Welsh club. It was a close thing for the Athletic, a win by 11 points to nine.

Cardiff Juniors XV. Captain Steve McCann. P26, W23, L3, D0. Points 624—86. This was a magnificent season with the captain showing some delightful running as a centre scoring many tries and setting good attacking example. The three defeats were at the hands of very good Youth fifteens, a Bristol combination, Pontypool and Llanelli Youth. Four of our Juniors gained international honours, Steve McCann, Roger Harris, Martin Pengilley and David Morris. Steve captained Wales as well as the Cardiff & District Youth R.U. which called upon no fewer than twelve of Cardiff's players. The Juniors finished off a great season by winning the Bridgend & District, and Cardiff & District 'Sevens', they enjoyed a successful Devon tour. David Morris with 25 was top try scorer and scored 126 points in all, Martin Pengilley scored 109.

Colours were awarded to Steve McCann, Martin Pengilley, P. McCarthy, S. Grey, J. Pittard, R. McPherson and A. Brahim. The 'Player of the Year' was Bobby Diamond.

The annual report of the C.A.C. gave due praise to our medical and masseur officials, namely Doctors J. H. Naysmith, K. Young, A. Williams and H. Evans and the masseurs/attendants Tom Holley, Keith Harse, W. Davies and Don Reed. The praise given was always well merited.

Lord Chalfont was the guest speaker at the club's annual dinner, a most fluent one who knew more about Rugby than most of those present realised. Our Rugby programmes were sold at 2½p per copy. At the end of the season remedial work was necessary in the south stand area. John Davies announced his retirement.

THE CAPTAIN'S UNFORTUNATE INJURY. BARBARIANS MASSACRED.

RHODESIA TOURED. TRY=4 POINTS.

1971-72.

Excluding the W.R.U. Challenge Cup matches and those of the Rhodesian Tour the season's results were: P43, W30, L13, D0, with points 764 to 435. The try value was increased from three to four points. It was an extraordinary season for the club, in many ways comparable with some of the glorious ones of the past. Its players, not least the more successful ones, might well reflect on the privilege of playing for such a great club and to share in its honours. Our captain was John H. James, a native of Laugharne, Pembrokeshire, who had captained Llandovery College and played three times for Cambridge University against Oxford. A splendidly built flank forward of over six feet in height, John joined Cardiff in 1967-68, gaining an Athletic XV cap for 1969-70. Of farming stock, he had qualified as a veterinary surgeon and to his great distress, and before the season had started, he injured his thumb and hand by injection of anti-abortion serum. As a result, he was unable to play until late in the season, taking part in only seven games, including, as delayed compensation as it were, all five matches of the Rhodesian tour. Alec Finlayson (vice-captain) took over the captaincy, and even he was injured with a back injury against Newport in February, and Roger Beard our grand prop forward was called upon mostly to deputise for him.

Ian Robinson "Robbo", was injured in the first match of the season and was out of action for eleven games. In the programme notes for our match on 9th October with Northampton, Dai Hayward wrote, "We have more walking wounded than Napoleon on his retreat from Moscow." But the chief injured sufferer was Lyn Baxter, who, in the final Welsh Trial match of 1st January, dislocated his elbow in the act of putting the ball