

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



over the line for a try. He was going 'great guns' at the time and lost an almost certain Welsh cap which all the experts predicted. Roger Lane and Wayne Lewis who was also hurt in the trial, with our three British Lions made up Cardiff's representation. Added to this injury factor, and the absence of John Bevan, Barry John and Gareth Edwards until late in the season, it was no wonder that we had suffered four defeats by 1st October, to Coventry, Pontypool, Abertillery and Newport.

We lost twice to Bridgend, on the second occasion in the last minute after having been the better team for nearly all the game without scoring; we lost to Newport and the French team Provence d'Auvergne in succession, Llanelli and London Welsh on the international match morning. The Heriots Club of Scotland beat us under floodlights before the Wales-Scotland encounter—next day some of our goal kicking was very poor indeed. Bristol beat us under floodlights at home by 15 points to 12, they were the better team on the evening. Bristol's great second row forward, David Watt, of Welsh extraction, celebrated the match with his record of 395 appearances for Bristol.

One of our best victories was that over Ebbw Vale at home, by 26 points to six with quite a weak team. Wayne Lewis the former Llandybie, Millfield and Swansea wing distinguished himself with two tries after some great running and anticipation. We beat Cambridge University at home 17-4 and Brian Rees, former Cambridge hooker who had joined the club, was in opposition to his brother G. Rees who was propping for the Cantabs. On 4th December two of our Lions returned to the team and played against Swansea, Barry John and John Bevan, and they provided the necessary attacking spark; the whole team raised its standard and the Cardiff crowd witnessed some sparkling Rugby. Swansea were beaten by 38-6, a resounding victory for Cardiff. The following Saturday we had the help of Gareth Edwards in our match against the Harlequins at Twickenham. Gareth's brother Gethin partnered him at half-back on a number of occasions, both took part in the Rhodesian tour in May. Another win—by 22 points to 15—at home over Coventry greatly pleased our supporters, "back to its former glory" some said. Our pack outplayed Coventry's always strong eight, with P. Rossborough, Peter Preece, G. W. Evans, R. E. Webb, D. Nicholls and W. G. Gittings, and the great David Duckham behind them. Barry John kicked five goals and scored a try.

John Bevan, Gareth Edwards and Barry John were now showing their worth to the club. Under the Lions' captaincy of John Dawes they had covered themselves with glory in New Zealand and Australia and had played leading roles in the success of the Lions in the test series with the All Blacks. In New Zealand alone Barry John amassed a total of 180 points, and he, together with Gareth Edwards as scrum half were rated as the world's greatest pair of half-backs; Barry was acclaimed "King John". The powerful running of John Bevan produced 17 tries and made him top scorer. All three received unanimous praise of the Rugby world, much so in Wales and through the television media. They were given a 'Welcome Home' night by the Rugby Club, with vocal support from the C.A.C. Male Voice Choir. Barry John "donated" his record breaking, kicking boots, to the club museum, and Gareth his British Lions jersey. It was with much regret from his club point of view, and that of all his Rugby fans, that Barry John decided to retire after the end of the season to take up a commercial career with television and writing. He retired at the pinnacle of his Rugby fame, and with Bevan and Gareth Edwards had shared in a British Lions success, the Triple Crown and the Grand Slam for Wales within the space of his last twelve months of Rugby.

One of our great victories was that over the mighty Barbarians on 1st April by 43 points to ten, against a powerful combination of no less than fourteen internationals including Pierre Villepreux France's international full-back, who kicked two goals. After a brilliant break and scoring a try John Regan was injured, and left the field after thirteen minutes' play. Yet Cardiff played with sustained brilliance and achieved one of the greatest successes in its long history. Barry John's boot kicked seven goals.

Prior to the club embarking on a tour to Rhodesia there had been a few public protests at Cardiff's acceptance of the invitation, because of the existence of Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence. But having been given the go-ahead authority of the Welsh Rugby Union, and in the sporting interest of Rugby football, the tour, with its very

interesting itinerary, was carried out, and turned out to be a very successful one. All five matches were won, including the test with Rhodesia itself at Salisbury, where Mr. Ian Smith the Prime Minister was present to see a Cardiff victory by 24 points to six. The Rhodesians were delighted with the display of some great Rugby by Cardiff. Records were broken, Mashonaland were beaten by the highest score in the club's First XV history, 74 points to 3; Mervyn John scored a try in each of the five matches, seven in all and was top scorer, exceeding the four of Gareth Edwards, Roger Lane and Neil Williams. Our young army full-back John Davies kicked sixteen goals and notched a try.

Amongst the many items of hospitality, the reception by the Cambrian Society, the Rhodesian Breweries Ltd. and factories in Salisbury, two days at Troutbeck in the Inyanga Mountains, the Zimbabwe Ruins Hotel, flights to Victoria Falls, the Wankie Game Reserve and Kariba Dam, these indicate the generous welcome of the Rhodesians. Photographs and plaques are housed in the club's museum. Cardiff's official party consisted of four officials and twenty-two players, they were: Colin Howe, manager; Malcolm Collins asst. manager; D. J. Hayward, coach; Haydn Wilkins, secretary. The players: Garry Davies, John Davies, Lyn Baxter, Roger Beard, Gareth Edwards, Gethin Edwards, Alec Finlayson, John Harding, Bernard Hurley, John H. James, Mervyn John, P. Lyn Jones, Roger Lane, Wayne Lewis, Phil Kallonas, Mike Knill, John Regan, Ian Robinson, Gary Samuel, Gerald Wallace, Neil Williams, A. D. Williams. Our supporters, headed by Tom Holley, included Messrs. H. Johnson, H. Richards, hon. surgeon and club doctors J. Naysmith and H. Evans.

In Cardiff's W.R.U. Challenge Cup matches, we were nearly beaten by Cardiff Training College who produced a very fit, robust, fast moving fifteen who played Rugby football as became a well coached student unit, Cardiff just won by 7 points to 6. In the semi-final played at Bridgend, Neath, the better side on the day, beat us 16 points to nine and they went on to beat Llanelli in the final on the national ground at Cardiff Arms Park. In 'sevens' we won the Welsh (Snelling) Tournament, beating Pontypridd, Maesteg, Neath and in the final Bridgend by 15 points to four.

The leading scorers, inclusive of the Rhodesia tour were: tries, P. Lyn Jones 17, Wayne Lewis 16, Gareth Edwards 13, Neil Williams 11, Steve McCann 10, Roger Lane and John Regan nine. Barry John scored two and his 43 goals brought him up to 122 points for the season, whilst our adventurous and young full-back Martin Pengilley scored five tries and kicked 22 goals. Inclusive of the Rhodesian tour, 53 matches were played and quite remarkably Mervyn John missed only two, against Coventry (H) in September and Cambridge University on 23rd October. Over the 40 number played were Roger Beard 46, Carl Smith 43, Garry Davies 41, Ian Robinson played 39, Roger Lane 35, John Regan 33, Lyn Baxter and Wayne Lewis 31. First XV caps were awarded to John Davies, Wayne Lewis, Steve McCann, John Regan, Carl Smith, Gwilym Treharne—the aggressive little Caerleon scrum-half previously with London Welsh and Newport, and Neil Williams. Congratulations went to Howard Norris, who, during the season made his 413th appearance to beat the first team record of 410 held by Alan Priday.

The Athletic XV record was P37, W31, L6. Points 898—338. John Uzzell was captain, he was a strong determined centre who tackled hard, and was versatile. He joined the club from Newport in 1967-68 and already possessed five Welsh caps; it was his dropped goal which defeated the 1963-64 All Blacks, their only defeat, and it brought a unique honour to himself and Newport, who thus joined Cardiff and Swansea the only clubs who had triumphed over New Zealand, until Llanelli did so in 1972. John was a most loyal player, who, before he retired in 1973-74 had played 54 games for the 1st XV, gaining his cap, and no less than 117 for "The Rags". It was an excellent season. By the end of March 843 points had been scored, and the captain's ambition was to score 1,000 points, but it was not to be, and rather unaccountably The Rags fell off somewhat in April scoring only 55 points instead of 102 required in the last four matches.

Six clubs were beaten by 40 points or more, namely Llantwit Major 52-6, Porthcawl 40-6, Llanelli Wanderers twice, 52-6 and 66-3, Wasps Vandals 54-15, Newport Saracens 42-4, and Penygraig 56-6. Stuart Watkins scored 14 tries, Martin Pengilley 10 besides kicking 40 goals, P. Lyn Jones and Peter Flood 10 each, the captain scored seven tries and two dropped goals, Neil Collins and Elwyn Williams each got seven tries, John



Davies kicked 16 goals and got three tries—in three matches. The new caps were Bernard Hurley, Phil Kallonas, Paul McCarthy, Gethin Edwards, Alun Evans; Alun Pike also qualified with 20 matches or more for the Premier and Athletic XV's.

The Cardiff Juniors had a splendid season under the captaincy of Paul Kerrigan, they amassed no fewer than 1,006 points, the full results being: P30, W25, L4, D1. Points 1,006 to only 142. The high scoring reflected the expertise of these Youth players and their attacking ability. They were a credit to the club, and to Welsh Youth Rugby. They actually scored 189 tries. On tour, two powerful West Country Colts XV's were defeated, and the open Bridgend & District Sevens tournament was won again. Ten players were provided for Cardiff & District Youth Union, Leighton Davies and Leighton Drummond gained international caps. Tony Debono scored most tries, 22, and Tony Brahim bagged 14. Colours were awarded to Leighton Davies, Keith Harding, Danny Wilson, Richard Elliot, Jeff Jenkins, Gary Williams and Tony Debono.

## 1971-72 RESULTS OTHER THAN NORMAL FIXTURES

### W.R.U. Challenge Cup Matches

Date	Opponents	CG	T	DG	PG	Pts	CG	T	DG	PG	Pts	
Nov. 18.	—Pentyrch .....	*A	3	2	—	1	29	—	1	—	1	7
Jan. 1.	—Tonyrefail .....	A	1	2	1	2	23	—	1	—	1	7
	19.—Pontypool .....	A	1	1	—	—	10	—	—	—	1	3
Mar. 11.	—Cardiff Training Coll.....	H	—	1	—	1	7	1	—	—	—	6
April 12.	—Neath (at Bridgend).....	S.F.	—	—	—	3	9	1	1	1	1	16

### Rhodesia Tour Matches

May 13.	—Mashonaland .....	A	—	2	—	2	14	1	1	—	1	13
	17.—Goshawks .....	A	4	5	—	—	44	1	1	—	1	13
	20.—Midland Selection .....	A	4	9	—	—	60	1	—	—	1	9
	22.—Matabeleland .....	A	6	8	—	2	74	—	—	—	1	3
	27.—Rhodesia .....	A	4	—	—	—	24	1	—	—	—	6

### Welsh (Snelling) Sevens—at Cardiff

April 29.	—Pontypridd .....	Rd.1	3	1	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	0
	29.—Maesteg .....	Rd.2	2	1	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	0
	29.—Neath .....	S.F.	1	1	—	—	10	1	—	—	—	6
	29.—Bridgend .....	F.	2	—	—	1	15	—	1	—	—	4

### W.R.U. National Sevens—at Cardiff‡

Aug. 28.	—Aberavon Quins .....	1	1	—	—	8	—	1	—	1	6
	28.—Aberavon .....	2	—	—	—	10	2	1	—	—	13

\*—Played at Cardiff Arms Park at Pentyrch's request.

‡—W.R.U. National Sevens. Try value 3 points—played in August 1971

## CARDIFF'S ROUGH GAME WITH THE SIXTH ALL BLACKS

### A RECORD WIN OVER MAESTEG. DEFEAT AGAIN AT CLERMONT FERRAND.

#### 1972-73.

Including the W.R.U. Challenge Cup matches the results were P49, W35, L12, D2. Points 963—499. Gerald Wallace our sturdy and aggressive prop forward joined Cardiff in 1965—66. He was a product of Mountain Ash Grammar School, and at the Cardiff Training College was contemporary with Roger Beard, Keri Jones, Gareth Edwards, Gary Samuel. Already a Welsh trialist he was selected for Wales on its tour of Canada in May/June of 1973. For his term of office he was assisted by Mervyn John as his vice-captain.

Winning the W.R.U. National Sevens was a good start in September, Glamorgan Wanderers, Maesteg, Kenfig Hill and Bridgend in the final 21—14, were the clubs defeated.

Barry John had retired, "The King is dead, long live Barry John", wrote our chairman, Peter Nyhan, but the club was fortunate in having the services of young Keith James from Newport, this most promising outside half made a brilliant début against Cardiff Teachers Training College which was beaten 32—12. His ability was soon recognized as he played for Wales B against France B, and gained his 1st XV cap in his first season.

The most important match was of course that with New Zealand on 4th November, they had been defeated by Llanelli on the previous Tuesday. It was a sad day for our captain who was unable to play because of a broken thumb, but it was a sadder one for the club, its followers and its reputation owing to the rough mauling play of both teams. In the annual report to our members, the chairman, Peter Nyhan wrote—"The game turned out to be a complete disaster. It was far below the standards and reputation of both sides as it could have been, and resulted in an unsatisfactory and unsavoury exhibition which did no credit to either side. It was a big disappointment to players, administration and members alike and we must look to our laurels the next occasion we receive a visit from a touring team." I can only hope that on the next meeting between Cardiff and the All Blacks the events of November the 4th 1974 can be obliterated with a match of quality and more in keeping with the respective long standing reputations.

On 11th November in France, a day observed as a national holiday, we suffered another humiliating defeat at the hands of the Province D'Auvergne at Clermont Ferrand whose combination included the French internationals Peyberre and Dauga, and the French "B" full-back Droitecourt. It was a final Welsh trial date, we had played New Zealand and Newport within the previous seven days, and were able to field only five regular 1st XV players. Consequently we were beaten by 36 points to nil. To add to our team's discomfort, the return journey in gale conditions in an old aircraft, caused it to land at Bournemouth after a severe and frightening buffeting. The committee decided to review this fixture.

Our third match with Newport at home in February was won by 19 points to 10, but it was rather a disappointing match marred by some rough play on both sides, and two Newport players Lyn Jones and Paul Woods were injured. As far as Cardiff's players were concerned, Roy Bish the club coach, on behalf of the committee, warned that rough play would not be tolerated. The fourth and final match at Rodney Parade was quite remarkable, it was played in a drizzle which made conditions rather slippery towards the end, but never in my own experience have I seen the Cardiff Club gain so much possession of the ball against Newport, and they attacked time and again yet failed to cross the line against a very gallant Newport defence, yet, with about a minute from time near Cardiff's 25, a kick from Gareth Edwards was charged down, and a Newport player with a forlorn hope of saving the game (Cardiff 6 points to three at this last minute) kicked high and towards the left hand corner with a following wind, and it bounced into the in-goal area where M. McCann had positioned himself. Steve seemed to have the ball safely covered to touch down for a minor, but it slipped past him somehow and a Newport player, following up out of the blue, dived on the ball about half a yard from the dead ball line and scored a try which at the very last fence and in the very last seconds, saved Newport from the stigma of four defeats.

On 29th March under floodlights at home we lost to Bridgend by nine points to seven. The captain, unfortunately, gave away a penalty in the last minute, and Bridgend's Ian Lewis, the former Cardiff outside half kicked the goal to win the match. This defeat definitely put paid to Cardiff's hopes of winning the Welsh Unofficial Championship. We were definitely robbed of victory at home over Coventry early in the season. In the first half of that match, John Bevan our splendid international wing was definitely late tackled, and put out of the game. Yet with fourteen men we were leading until the very closing minutes, when David Duckham was given a run down the touchline and had reached our twenty-five where he was obviously pushed into touch. Alas the Coventry touch judge, right on the spot, failed to put up his touch flag. Cardiff lost the match—a defeat hard to take.