

# CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR SEASON 1991-92

What is there to say about a Season that has seen the Club return one of it's worst playing records in it's history. I've heard the words like disaster, disgraceful, disgusting and of course, disappointing mentioned. Yes, I would agree with some of the sentiments expressed but not all, because if one is to really appreciate the good times, one has to experience the bad times. The Season that has just been completed was a bad time, a bad time for Players, Officials, Committeemen, Members and Supporters but I trust that we will all have learnt from it.

"When the going gets tough – the tough get going"

Who would have thought in August of last year that with nine players selected for the Welsh World Cup Squad, we would have experienced a Season like we've had. Everyone I spoke with at the time said that our results in September and October would be on the poor side owing to the absence of key players but we only had to wait for their return and then we would be winning again. What a false illusion that turned out to be. The reality was that in November when our Welsh Squad players returned, some were so drained from the experience that they could not find any sort of form, some had lost their zest, whilst others returned injured and missed large chunks of the Season.

To highlight this, take the predicament our Selectors had in early Season. They had two international players vying for the outside half position, Mark Ring and David Evans, a third international outside half, Adrian Davies was to join us later in the Season – no problem here then. In reality how many games in total did these talented players play for the First Fifteen? Well for those who do not want to look up the records, I'll tell you – 11. There cannot be another rugby club in the world that can boast of 3 full international outside halves on their books and yet we struggled all season in this extremely crucial position. I spotlight this because it symbolises the frustration that many of us have felt throughout what has been a long and hard winter.

It was after a particularly heavy defeat in the first Heineken League match at Swansea that we had the sad saga of the resignation of Alan Phillips as Club Coach. Having informed Members of the details of what happened in the Athletic Club's Newsletter, I do not propose to repeat it in this Report. I think it sufficient to say that whether or not Alan was the World's best Coach, he deserved to leave the Club he served so loyally as a Player and as a hard working Coach, in a much better manner.

Being something of a fatalist, I have accepted that sometimes in life, one can see some good emerge from the depths of adversity and I now wonder if we needed a lot of what's happened to make us take stock of things. The Committee accepted my outlook and following my suggestion appointed a Sub Committee to review the Coaching and Administrative structure of the Club, this Sub Committee to seek outside professional guidance if it thought necessary. Not only did it do this but also sent representatives to other clubs to see what structure they had installed.

As with the parent body of Welsh Rugby and indeed our own Club's Management Committee, it was considered necessary that we have a small Executive Committee which can meet on a regular basis and if thought necessary consult quickly to respond to any situation that might arise. Decisions will be made without delay and it will then report back to Main Committee to obtain endorsement of its actions. This Executive will be chosen by Committee immediately following the Annual General Meeting and it will then allocate specific duties to Committee Members, as well as at some future date consider any alteration that would seem necessary to the administration. It may recommend an alteration in the number of Committeemen. However, at the present time, with representation being required on the Management Committee, the Finance and General Purposes, the House Committee, the Ground Committee, as well as the Rugby Section's Finance and Sponsorship Sub Committees, not to mention the Association of Senior Clubs, the W.R.U.'s District B, The Snellings, Cardiff & District, both at senior and youth level Sub Committees, one can see that for amateurs giving their own time when holding down regular employment, the commitment is considerable.

One recommendation already acted on was that the Club appoint a Coaching Organiser to supervise all the Club's Coaches thus ensuring that our players have the best possible assistance in this area. No stone was left unturned in our efforts to get the best man available, somebody with a pedigree and somebody without any preconceived ideas about the Club. We sought advice internationally and I am delighted to say that Alex Evans, who was responsible in no small measure for the success achieved in recent years by Australia, accepted the Club's invitation to be our first Coaching Organiser. I am sure we will all give Alex and his wife, Kay, a warm and friendly welcome and hope he achieves his ambition of taking Cardiff back to the top of the League. Incidentally, I believe it was a good omen that, during Alex's 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  days initial stay, he saw 4 games in which Cardiff sides were involved against Newport and Pontypool in the Heineken League, the Athletic XV versus Bridgend

Sports and our very successful Youth side in the Esso Cup Final and all these games were won.

Having mentioned our Youth XV, may I take this opportunity of congratulating them on retaining the Cup for the third successive time, a tribute to the hard work of all players and their loyal Coaches, Jack Lewis and Gareth Jones. I would not be forgiven by the Youth Chairman, Jim O'Donnell, if I did not mention his Sub-Committee. Here I go on record in congratulating them and recognising the wonderful work they all put in producing quality players for our Senior Squad in years to come.

From good news to the bad, during the past few months two of the Main Committee have resigned, first Peter (The Pen) Nyhan and secondly, John Scott. Peter has been a long serving Committee Member and will be remembered for his Editorship of the Club Programme. Whilst John, not having been on the Committee for too long, will be remembered as an outstanding Number 8 and Club Captain, leading us to victory on a number of occasions in the Schweppes Cup during the eighties. Since his playing days, John has become the proprietor of a Sportshop and has earned himself something of a reputation as a Rugby Journalist. Regretfully, he does not see himself as a "Backroom Administrator" to coin his own phrase. Both these gentlemen will be sadly missed but I am sure we all wish them well in whatever they do and thank them for their hard and loyal work for the club.

During the past season, I have been made aware of the discontent felt by some of the Membership about the Committee. Like any administrative body, not all of its decision will meet with the approval of all members but I would assure those who doubt the good intentions of those who are elected to serve on Committee that every member of that Committee has worked hard to re-establish the Club as a force in the Rugby World. It has not given your elected representative a moments pleasure to see us languish at the foot of the Heineken League. We believe that we have started a process that will lead us back to the top, we might be only a couple of rungs up the ladder of success but up we are going, the players, the Coaches and Committee are determined that next season will see Cardiff R.F.C. challenging for top honours. Soon Alex Evans will complete his coaching staff. It is good to see Terry Holmes back with the Club after his reinstatement, it is also good to see that Malcolm Childs and "Charlie" Faulkner will be assisting Alex. May I wish them well in their endeavour and at the same time thank those Coaches who have worked so hard for such little reward this last Season.

I would also like to thank the Players for their efforts this last

Season, which has been tough and difficult, not to mention frustrating. I hope they all stay free of injury next season and that the ball will bounce a little more kindly for them than it has this past season.

My thanks go also to the workers behind the scenes, to the Medical staff who attend to the injured, our loyal Doctors and Surgeons, to our Trainers who look after the teams in all winds and weathers, to our office staff under the leadership of Alf Heffell, to Jeff Ellerman and the Clubhouse staff, to Albert Francis and Tina in the Commercial Department. To the Glamorgan Youth Band who provide us with our musical entertainment before games, to Bill Johnson and his loyal band of Stewards and Gatemens, to our Groundstaff who prepare our pitches and finally my thanks to to my fellow Committeemen for their patience and support, especially Brian Mark, Vice Chairman and our very hard working Hon. Secretary, John Nelson.

I have been a member of this Club of ours for 43 years, from when I joined as a callow Youth in 1949. I have seen good times and bad, I have experienced depression and elation, disappointment and success, but never have I hesitated to say that I have been greatly honoured by being a member of Cardiff Rugby Football Club, especially as it's Chairman.

ALUN J. PRIDAY, Chairman  
Cardiff Rugby Football Club,  
June 1992

## RECORD OF RESULTS - SEASON 1991/92

### CARDIFF FIRST FIFTEEN

Date	Opponents	H. or A.	Result	Score for					Score against											
				G.	T.	PG	DG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	PG	DG	MG	Pts.					
1991																				
Sept 2	Llanharan ..	A	Lost	1	2				10	2	2				14					
7	Bristol ..	A	Won			3			9	1	1				7					
14	Leicester ..	A	Lost	2		2			18	1	2	3			23					
21	Bath ..	H	Lost			3			9	1	2				10					
28	Nottingham ..	H	Won	2	4				28						4					
Oct. 5	Aberavon ..	A	Drew	1	1	1			13	1	1	1			13					
8	Penarth ..	A	Won	4	1				19	1					4					
11	Glam Wands ..	H	Lost			2			6	1	1	2			16					
19	Cambridge Univ. ..	A	Lost	2	1	1			19	1	2	4			26					
25	Wasps ..	H	Won	3	5				38	2					8					
Nov. 1	Gloucester ..	H	Lost			2			6	2	1				11					
9	Swansea (HL) ..	A	Lost			3			9	5	1				23					
16	Newbridge (HL) ..	H	Lost			1			3		2				6					
23	Bridgend (HL) ..	A	Lost	1		1			9	2	1	4			28					
30	Pontypridd (HL) ..	H	Won	2	1		1		19		4				12					
Dec 7	Maesteg (HL) ..	A	Won	3	2	2			32		2				6					
14	Llanelli (HL) ..	H	Lost	2	1	2			22	4	1				28					
21	Newport (HL) ..	A	Lost			2			6		4				12					
26	Pontypridd ..	H	Lost	1	1				10	1	3	3			27					
28	Welsh Academicals ..	H	Won	6	4	1			55	1	2				14					
1992																				
Jan 4	Pontypool (HL) ..	H	Lost	1	2				10	2	3				24					
11	Neath (HL) ..	A	Drew			1			3		1				3					
25	Pencoed (Cup) ..	A	Won	9	1				58	1	2				10					
Feb 5	Swansea (HL) ..	H	Lost	2	2				14	3	3	2			36					
8	Saracens ..	H	Won	2	1	2			22		3	1			12					
15	Newbridge (HL) ..	A	Lost	1	2				6	1	4				16					
22	Newport (Cup) ..	H	Lost	1					4	2					12					
29	Bridgend (HL) ..	H	Lost	2	2				14	2	2				18					
March 7	London Welsh ..	A	Won	3	2	1			29	3	1	1			25					
14	Pontypridd (HL) ..	A	Lost	1	2				12	2	3				17					
20	Ayr ..	H	Won	2	3	1			27	2					12					
28	Maesteg (HL) ..	H	Won	2	1	2			22	1		1			9					
April 4	Wasps ..	A	Won	1	2				14	3					12					
11	Llanelli (HL) ..	A	Lost	1					6	3	1				22					
18	Barbarians ..	H	Lost	1	4	1			25	3	2				26					
21	Newport (HL) ..	H	Won	1	3	1			18	1	1	1			13					
25	Pontypool (HL) ..	A	Won	1	2	3			23	1	1	1			10					
May 2	Ebbw Vale ..	H	Won	4	1	1			31	2					8					
9	Neath (HL) ..	H	Lost	2					12	2	1				23					

TOTALS:- FOR:- G: 55; T: 48; PG: 54; DG: 2; Pts. 690  
 AGAINST:- G: 36; T: 51; PG: 58; DG: 2; Pts. 600

## RECORD OF RESULTS - SEASON 1991/92

### CARDIFF ATHLETIC FIFTEEN

Date	Opponents	H. or A.	Result	Score for					Score against												
				G.	T.	PG	DG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	PG	DG	MG	Pts.						
1991																					
Sept. 5	Pencoed ..	H	Won	3	2	3			35	1	2				14						
7	Bristol Utd ..	H	Won	1	2	2	1		23	2					12						
14	Leicester Extras ..	H	Won	2	2	2			26	1					15						
17	Bedwas ..	A	Won	2	3				24	1	3	1			16						
21	Bath Utd. ..	A	Lost	2	3				24	4	1	1			27						
28	Llanhilleth ..	A	Won	1	4				22						0						
Oct 2	Glynneath ..	A	Won	2	1	1			19	1	1				10						
5	Hirwaun ..	H	Won	4	3				36		1	1			3						
19	Blackwood ..	H	Won	1	3	2			24	1					9						
25	Pontypool Utd. ..	A	Won	2		1			15	1	1				7						
29	Rumney ..	H	Won	1	1				7		1				3						
Nov. 9	Gloucester Utd. ..	A	Lost			1			3	3	3	3			39						
1	Rosslyn Park II ..	H	Won			4			16	1	1				10						
16	Cardiff Inst. of H.E. ..	A	Won	1	3	1			21	1	2				14						
20	Cardiff Medicals ..	H	Won	9	3				66						0						
23	Bridgend Ravens ..	H	Won	4	6				48	2					12						
30	Pontypridd Ath. ..	A	Won	5	2				38		1	3			13						
Dec 7	Glam Wands. II ..	H	Won	5	2				38		1				4						
17	Senghenydd ..	A	Won	3	5	1			41		2				6						
21	Newport Utd. ..	H	Won	2	2	1			23						0						
1992																					
Jan. 4	Pontypool Ath. ..	A	Won	5	6				54	1	2	1			17						
12	Ebbw Vale Ath. ..	H	Won	4	6				48	2					12						
14	Caldicot ..	A	Won	2	4	2			34						0						
17	Garndiffaith ..	H	Won	5	6				54		2				6						
25	Old Illydians ..	A	Won	2	2	1			23						0						
30	St. Peters ..	H	Won	1	1	4			22	1	1	1			13						
Feb 8	Glam. Wands. II ..	A	Won	2	1	1			19		2				8						
15	Abercarn ..	H	Lost	1	2				14		3	1			15						
22	Bedwas ..	H	Won	1	5				26		2	1			11						
29	Bridgend Ravens ..	A	Lost	2	1				16	1	2	1			17						
March 7	London Scottish II ..	A	Won	6		3			45	1	1	2			16						
8	Maidenhead ..	A	Won	4	5	1			47	1	1	1			13						
14	Pontypridd Ath. ..	H	Won	7	1				31	2					12						
18	Pontypool Utd. ..	H	Won	1	1	1			13		2				8						
28	Cwmbran ..	A	Lost	1	1	1			13	1	2	1			17						
April 4	Croesyceiliog ..	A	Won	7	4	1			61	1					9						
11	Neath Ath. ..	H	Won	3	4				34		3	2			18						
15	Newport Utd. ..	A	Won	1	2	2			20	1	2				14						
22	Bridgend Sports ..	H	Won	4	3	1	1		42	1	2	1			17						
25	Pontypool Ath. ..	H	Won	2	4				28		1				4						
May 2	Fairwater ..	A	Won	3	5				38		1				4						
9	Rumney ..	A	Lost	1	2				14	3	1	1			25						

TOTALS:- FOR:- G: 107; T: 123; PG: 35; DG: 2; Pts. 1245  
 AGAINST:- G: 33; T: 41; PG: 35; DG: 1; Pts. 470