

CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEASON 2001/2002

The 125th Season of the Club can be described as one of celebration and disappointment. The various events held during the year were a great success but our failure at the final hurdle in both League and Cup was disappointing.

The Season began with the arrival of a new Director of Rugby, Rudy Joubert, and a new competition, the Celtic League. Injuries to many senior players meant we started the Season with a very young side and defeats to Connacht, Neath and Munster put paid to any progress in the Celtic League despite an excellent home victory over Newport.

Away form at the beginning of the Season was not always what it could be and three away defeats in the European Cup meant, for the first time, we failed to qualify for the quarterfinals. Having failed to progress in both Celtic and European Competitions was disappointing and also led to a very fragmented season with breaks of 5 and 6 weeks which did little to help the continuity of the side's progress.

Returning to League action at Christmas, with two wins, a draw and a defeat at Ebbw Vale, was to prove costly later in the season.

Action in the Principality Cup began the second half of the season with a hard-earned victory over Aberavon landing us a home tie with "Old enemies Newport". A full house witnessed a pulsating Cup-Tie with us running out victors 20-14. The Semi Final defeat by Pontypridd, despite out-scoring them 3 tries to 1, was again disappointing when we seemed capable of winning the game.

The end of the Season brought a run of five games in fifteen days and left us wondering about the allocation of fixtures when we had had weeks without games earlier in the season. Defeats away at Swansea and home to Llanelli were to end our chances of League success. Whilst we finished the season without any silverware the progression of some of the younger players during the season leaves us with plenty of hope for the future.

Many of these young players had appeared during the season for the U21's and had produced some excellent performances. Two defeats in sixteen matches meant the League was won and only an 18-15 defeat to Neath prevented a League and Cup double for this outstanding side. The hard work of the Coaches, Mike Rayer and Howard Stone in the Cardiff Academy, will in the future pay dividends to the Club.

The Youth XV, under the guidance of Gerry Roberts and Huw Daniels, has had another outstanding season and retained the Welsh Cup for the third successive season. The hard work of Chairman, Jim O'Donnell, and his Committee has maintained the highest standards. The Academy's end of season tour to Poland will provide great experience for both U21 and Youth Players who took part. One victory and one defeat, at the end of a hard season, was a very creditable performance.

The Club's International Representation at all levels continues to grow and the Club is proud of their achievements. David Young captained the Club for the fourth season and we wish him well as he moves towards coaching and his experience will be invaluable to the Club. John Humphreys and Craig Quinnell have departed the Club during the summer and we wish them well in England. Craig has worked hard for the Club in the few seasons he has been with us and John has been a tremendous ambassador for our Club for more than a decade, during which time he captained Club and Country. On behalf of all Members, I wish them both well.

Robert Norster's arrival as Chief Executive has helped structure the Club and I wish Bob and his office staff every success for the future. Coach, Rudy Joubert, Assistant Coach, Geraint John, Fitness Coach, Huw Wiltshire, Analyst, Alun Carter, Physiotherapists, Mrs. Jane James and Hywel Griffiths, Masseur, Wayne Mortimer, Doctors, Roger Evans, Prof. John Williams, Mr. John Fairclough, Mr. Mike Fardy, Dr. Richard Evans, Dr. Jim Naysmith, Dr. Malcolm Snow, Mr. Geoff Graham and Optician, Frank Mahoney, Dentist Geoff Price and Media Officer, Alan Evans, are all responsible for the effective running of the team and we thank them all.

The Rugby Committee continues with its support of the Club and Teams of all levels and my thanks go to one and all, especially Hon. Secretary, Brian Bennett. Many thanks to Vicky McCracken and Jackie Flynn for their valuable work. The Management Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mervyn Warfield, continues as Landlords of the Rugby Club and a close working relationship is essential for the success of the Club.

The Board of Directors continues to support the running of a successful Club. To Brian Walker and his groundstaff and Karl Williams and bar staff many thanks.

The Lottery continues to raise monies for the development of rugby and special thanks to Kath and Ken Jones, Graham Kierle and Brian Bennett. The Supporters Club, under the Chairmanship of Simon Down, continues to grow and we thank him and his Committee for the tremendous support during the season. Capital Rugby goes from strength to strength and it is wonderful to see so many children taking to the field at pre-match tournaments. Long may it continue.

I would like to end by thanking all Members for their support during the past season. As I mentioned earlier the disruption of fixtures e.g. Friday night games, Saturday evening games, is frustrating for everyone and while we all hope for a more structured season the support of the Members is vital for the continued success of this great Club.

Cardiff Rugby Club looks forward to your loyal support next season.

Yours in Rugby
ROBERT LAKIN

1st XV 2001 – 2002

			SCORE FOR					SCORE AGAINST					
DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A Res.	G	T	DG	PG	Pts	G	T	DG	PG	Pts	
Aug 18(CL)	CONNACHT	H Lost				1	3				2	6	
24(WS)(CL)	NEATH	A Lost	2				14	1		1	5	25	
29(WS)(CL)	NEWPORT	H Won	2			2	20	2				14	
Sept 1(WS)(CL)	CAERPHILLY	A Won	5	1		3	49	1	1		1	15	
11(WS)(CL)	EDINBURGH	H Won	3	1		2	32	1	1	1	3	24	
15(CL)	MUNSTER	A Lost	1			1	10	4	4		1	51	
22(WS)	SWANSEA	H Won	2	1		2	25	1			2	13	
28(E)	NORTHAMPTON	H Won	2	1		2	25	2			1	17	
Oct 6(E)	MONTFERRAND	A Lost	1			1	10	3	2		2	37	
20(WS)	LLANELLI	A Lost	2	1		2	25	1			7	28	
27(E)	GLASGOW	H Won	5	1		2	46	1				7	
Nov 4(E)	GLASGOW	A Lost	3	1		2	32	3	1		7	47	
24	CAMBRIDGE UNI	H Won	5	1			40		1		2	11	
Dec 15(WS)	NEATH	H Won	1		1	2	16			2	2	12	
22(WS)	BRIDGEND	A Drew	2	1		2	25	2	1		2	25	
26(WS)	PONTYPRIDD	H Won	2	1		3	28	2			2	20	
29(WS)	EBBW VALE	A Lost	2			2	20	1			5	22	
Jan 5(E)	MONTFERRAND	H Won	2			4	26		1		5	20	
12(E)	NORTHAMPTON	A Lost				5	15	2		1	3	26	
19(WS)	GLASGOW	H Won	3	1		1	29				4	12	
Feb 9	RUMNEY	H Won	4	4			48	1				7	
23(CUP)	ABERAVON	A Won	1	1		4	24	1		1	2	16	
Mar 9(WS)	EBBW VALE	H Won	1	2		3	26	1			3	16	
16(WS)	PONTYPRIDD	A Won	1	1		3	21				6	18	
29(CUP)	NEWPORT	H Won	2			2	20		1		3	14	
Apr 13(CUP)	PONTYPRIDD	MILL-ST Lost	2	1		2	25	1			8	31	
17(WS)	CAERPHILLY	H Won	3			2	27	1			3	16	
19(WS)	EDINBURGH	A Lost	1			1	10	3	1		2	32	
26(WS)	NEWPORT	A Won	2			1	17		1	1	2	14	
30(WS)	GLASGOW	A Won		2		4	22	1			4	19	
May 4(WS)	SWANSEA	A Lost	2			2	20	1	1		4	24	
7(WS)	BRIDGEND	H Won	5			4	47	3			2	27	
10(WS)	LLANELLI	H Lost	2	1		2	25	2	1		3	28	
Played 33	Won 20	Drew 1	Lost 12	71	23	1	69	822	42	17	7	98	694

OTHER MATCH STATISTICS

	P	W	L	D	G	T	DG	PG	Pts	G	T	DG	PG	Pts
						Score For				Score Against				
WELSH SCOTTISH	20	13	6	1	43	13	1	43	498	24	7	5	62	404
EUROPE	6	3	3	0	13	3	–	16	154	11	4	1	18	154
CUP	3	2	1	0	5	2	–	8	69	2	1	1	13	61
FRIENDLY	2	2	0	0	9	5	–	–	88	1	1	–	2	18
CELTIC LEAGUE	6	3	3	0	13	2	–	9	128	9	6	2	12	135
TOTAL	33	20	12	1	71	23	1	69	822	42	17	7	98	694

Tries 94

Conversions 71

PG 69

DG 1

Points Scorers (822)

Iestyn Harris	199 (6T, 29C, 37PG)	Greg Woods	10
Nick Robinson	184 (6T, 32C, 29PG, 1DG)	Peter Rogers	10
Rhys Williams	75	Nick McLeod	8 (4c)
Craig Hudson	50	Dean Dewdney	7 (1T, 1C)
Anthony Sullivan	50	Emyr Lewis	5
Matt Allen	35	Ken Fourie	5
Jamie Robinson	30	Craig Quinnett	5
Robert Howley	20	Spencer John	5
Andrew Henry	20	Nick Walne	5
Neil Jenkins	19 (5c, 3PG)	Martyn Williams	5
Peter Muller	15	Liam Roberts	5
Gary Powell	10	Adam Jones	5
Ryan Powell	10	Francois Mounier	5
Semo Sititi	10	Jim Brownrigg	5
Jonathan Humphreys	10		

Penalty Goals (69)

Iestyn Harris	37
Nick Robinson	29
Neil Jenkins	3

Conversions (71)

Nick Robinson	32
Iestyn Harris	29
Neil Jenkins	5
Nick MacLeod	4
Dean Dewdney	1

Drop Goals (1)

Nick Robinson	1
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