

CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2004/2005

It is with great sadness that I write this report following the death of this year's Chairman Jim O'Donnell. Jim was a great clubman, a real character and was extremely proud to hold the office of Chairman of Cardiff RFC, he will be sorely missed. On behalf of the rugby committee, the players and supporters I would like to offer Jim's wife Vicki, sons Tim, Neil and Mike our sincere condolences.

The first half of the season was a little disappointing for the Premiership side winning only 8 of 19 fixtures played. The cup game at Bargoed which Cardiff won by 55 - 15 proved to be the catalyst for a tremendous change in fortune for the rest of the season. This cup victory saw the young Cardiff team embark on an extremely successful run, which saw them winning 17 of the remaining 20 games. It was not just the victories recorded in this run but the exceptional standard of rugby played. The team was always prepared to run the ball and attack, this led to some marvellous tries being scored, which excited and enthralled those of us watching.

Yes, mistakes were sometimes made but it is through our mistakes we learn and I am certain that this squad collectively has learned more about winning rugby matches over the eight months of last season than at any other times in their rugby careers. This exciting brand of rugby I am sure will continue to reap rich dividends for the team next season and keep those of us on the terraces highly entertained.

The success of the team and the quality of the rugby played is a great testimony to the quality of the club coaches. Both Mike Rayer [Head Coach] and Howard Stone [assistant coach] worked extremely hard, not only to develop this exciting brand of rugby but to nurture and develop the individuals in the team. They have been with this, still young squad a number of years and all their hard work over this time is now starting to bear fruit. I would like to thank them both for everything that they have achieved for the team through a lot of hard work, a positive and determined outlook and their continued belief in the team.

Probably the highlight of the season was when Chris Czekaj gained his senior Welsh cap against Canada on the Wales North America tour. Chris who played 17 times for the Cardiff Premiership side last season, made a try scoring debut for Wales, with his Premiership team mates who were themselves on tour in Toronto, there to cheer him on. Many congratulations Chris, hopefully his will be the first of many caps for players who graduate through the Premiership team to the Blues.

It is somewhat ironic that just as the team are really coming into their own that Mike is leaving the Cardiff RFC set up to take up the position of Director of Rugby at Bedford. I would like to thank Mike for everything he has achieved as coach with the club and to wish him and his family a very happy and successful time at Bedford. I am sure that it goes without saying that although he will be missed at the Arms Park there will always be a very warm welcome here for him

Mike and Howard were fortunate to be supported by the very able Gerrit Bantjes, our conditioning coach. Gerrit worked tirelessly with the players on their fitness and to be able to play the fast open style of rugby that was our trademark last year, fitness is paramount. That we were able to play this type of rugby is testimony to Gerrit's hard work and enthusiasm.

The coaching team was wonderfully augmented by Dyfri Owen the team physiotherapist, who dealt with all the team injuries through out the season. Dyfri's role is not just a Saturday one as he is always to be found at training treating player's injuries and offering advice to improve recovery time. It is hugely reassuring to have someone of the calibre of Dyfri to look after the players.

I would like to thank both Dyfri and Gerrit for their invaluable service over the past year and to assure them it is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank the Rugby Committee for all their endeavours through out the season and in particular Keith Morgan who worked tirelessly in his role of Team Manager, Billy Woods who organized the fund raising for the end of season tour to Canada and John Huw Williams for all his work as Secretary.

The Athletic Club Committee under Mervyn Warfield acknowledges the importance of the rugby section in driving the Premiership team forward and often provides invaluable advice.

The Supporters Club continues giving tremendous support and we are very grateful for all their help on match days with programme sales. The importance of the Supporters Club under Simon Down and his committee to the Premiership side cannot be overstated and has become an integral and vital part of the club.

The Arms Park pitch has recovered from the problems of a few years ago, we now have an excellent playing surface and this is due entirely to the hard work and dedication of Brian Walker and his staff.

Jackie Flynn who retired at the end of last season has worked extremely hard for the club over the years, her efforts are greatly appreciated and her contribution will be missed.

The clubhouse under Karl Williams and his staff continues to provide us with high quality fare throughout the year.

I would like to emphasize the complete support of all involved with the Premiership team for the Blues and for the Regional set up. Although last season fell below the standard we expect from our Regional side, I am convinced that next season will see a marked improvement in fortune for Dai Young's side and that under his leadership we will be in a position to challenge for honours in all competitions.

Both Bob Norster and Alun Doull have worked tirelessly for the Blues and have contributed to the organization and running of the Cardiff RFC team through out the season.

Peter Thomas and his Board of Directors have the ambition and determination to drive the Blues to the very top and I would like to wish everyone involved with the Blues a very successful season for 2005/06.

In conclusion I would like to thank you, the members for your support throughout the season, I honestly believe that we are on the verge of something special on the field of play and that we can all look forward with optimism to next season. I look forward to your continued support and to seeing you at the Arms Park come September.

Many thanks,
Malcolm Childs

CARDIFF BLUES 2004-2005

				SCORE FOR					SCORE AGAINST				
DATE	OPONENTS	H/A	Res.	G	T	DG	PG	Pts	G	T	DG	PG	Pts
AUG 13	Worcester	A	Lost	1	-	-	1	10	1	1	-	-	12
28	Leicester	A	Lost	1	-	-	2	13	2	1	-	-	31
SEPT 5	Leinster (L)	A	Drew	-	-	-	3	9	-	-	-	-	9
11	Dragons (L)	H	Won	1	1	-	2	18	-	1	-	1	8
18	Ospreys (L)	A	Lost	-	-	-	1	3	4	1	-	2	39
24	Connacht (L)	H	Won	1	3	-	3	31	-	-	-	2	6
OCT 2	Edinburgh (L)	A	Lost	1	-	-	3	16	2	-	-	-	35
16	Munster (L)	A	Lost	1	1	-	2	18	3	2	1	5	49
22	Ulster (E)	A	Lost	1	-	1	2	16	-	-	2	5	21
29	Stade Francais (E)	H	Lost	1	1	-	1	15	3	1	1	3	38
NOV 7	Scarlets (L)	H	Won	-	1	-	3	14	1	-	-	1	10
13	Glasgow (L)	H	Won	1	1	-	4	24	1	-	-	4	19
19	Ulster (L)	A	Lost	-	1	-	3	14	-	3	-	5	30
26	Borders (L)	A	Lost	2	1	-	2	25	3	1	-	3	35
DEC 4	Gloucester (E)	A	Lost	1	-	1	3	19	1	2	-	2	23
11	Gloucester (E)	H	Lost	1	-	-	3	16	2	-	-	3	23
18	Leinster (L)	H	Lost	-	-	-	2	6	1	1	-	1	15
27	Dragons (L)	A	Lost	1	1	-	3	21	2	1	-	2	25
JAN 1	Ospreys (L)	H	Lost	-	-	-	3	9	1	1	-	1	15
7	Stade Francais (E)	A	Lost	1	-	-	3	16	3	1	-	3	35
16	Ulster (E)	H	Won	-	2	-	2	16	-	-	-	4	12
22	Connacht (L)	A	Won	1	1	-	2	18	-	1	-	1	8
28	Edinburgh (L)	H	Lost	1	1	-	-	12	2	-	-	1	17
MAR 5	Munster (L)	H	Won	3	-	1	2	30	2	-	-	2	20
20	Scarlets (L)	A	Lost	1	-	-	2	13	2	1	-	2	25
25	Glasgow (L)	A	Lost	-	1	1	2	14	1	-	-	4	19
APR 8	Ulster (L)	H	Won	2	1	-	1	22	-	1	-	1	8
15	Borders (L)	H	Won	4	1	-	-	33	1	1	-	-	12
May 29	Arix Viadana (EQ)	A	Won	3	1	-	4	38	-	-	-	3	9

Pl	W	D	L											
20	8	1	11	League (L)	20	15	2	43	350	26	15	1	48	404
6	1	0	5	Europe (E)	5	3	2	14	98	9	4	3	20	152
2	0	0	2	Friendly	2	-	-	3	23	3	2	-	4	43
1	1	0	0	Eur Qualifier (EQ)	3	1	-	4	38	-	-	-	3	9
29	10	1	18	Total	30	19	4	64	509	38	21	4	75	608

CARDIFF BLUES 2004-05

PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	PTS. FOR	PTS. AGST
29	10	1	18	509	608
Tries 49	Conversions 30	Penalty Goals 64	Drop Goals 4		

Points Scorers (509)

L. Thomas	143 (2T, 33PG, 14C, 2DG)	M. Jones	10
N. Macleod	122 (30PG, 16C)	R. Powell	10
D. Dewdney	35	J. Vaughton	10
C. Morgan	30	M. Williams	10
K. Schubert	20	T. Davies	5
T. Shanklin	20	Penalty Try	5
R. Williams	20	R. Smith	5
N. Robinson	19 (2T, 1PG, 2DG)	R. Thomas	5
C. Quinell	15	F. Tuilagi	5
R. Sowden-Taylor	15	J. Yapp	5

Try Scorers (49)

D. Dewdney	7	M. Jones	2	T. Davies	1
C. Morgan	6	R. Powell	2	Penalty Try	1
K. Schubert	4	N. Robinson	2	R. Smith	1
T. Shanklin	4	L. Thomas	2	R. Thomas	1
R. Williams	4	J. Vaughton	2	F. Tuilagi	1
C. Quinell	3	M. Williams	2	J. Yapp	1
R. Sowden-Taylor	3				

Appearances (562) (29x15 +127 subs)

C. Morgan	28	R. Powell	15 (14+1)
K. Schubert	26 (25+1)	J. Vaughton	14 (11+3)
R. Sidoli	26 (21+5)	R. Smith	13 (9+4)
N. Thomas	25 (16+9)	S. James	11 (9+2)
D. Jones	24 (20+4)	F. Tuilagi	11 (10+1)
N. Macleod	23 (20+3)	A. Lewis	10 (3+7)
D. Dewdney	22 (16+6)	N. Walne	8 (6+2)
T. Davies	21 (18+3)	M. Nuthall	7 (3+4)
M. Jones	20 (12+8)	N. Robinson	7 (6+1)
L. Thomas	20 (15+5)	M. Lewis	6 (4+2)
G. Williams	20 (17+3)	M. Molitika	6 (3+3)
J. Yapp	20 (16+4)	J. Malpas	5 (4+1)
G. Jenkins	19 (17+2)	K. Fourie	4 (1+3)
R. Thomas	19 (17+2)	J. Bryant	3 (2+1)
B. Evans	18 (11+7)	N. Llewellyn	3 (0+3)
R. Sowden-Taylor	18 (15+3)	C. Czekaj	2
T. Shanklin	17 (16+1)	J. Goode	2 (1+1)
M. Williams	17	J. Robinson	2
C. Quinell	16 (14+2)	H. Senekal	2 (0+2)
R. Williams	16	M. Leaman	1 (0+1)
N. Budgett	15 (5+10)		

CARDIFF RFC 2004-2005

				SCORE FOR					SCORE AGAINST				
DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	Res.	G	T	DG	PG	Pts	G	T	DG	PG	Pts
AUG 11	Merthyr (F)	A	Won	2	3	-	-	29	-	2	-	-	10
21	Llanishen (F)	A	Won	6	4	-	-	62	1	-	-	-	7
28	Bristol (F)	H	Lost	1	1	-	-	12	5	-	-	1	38
SEPT 4	Pontypridd	H	Won	1	-	-	4	19	-	-	-	4	12
11	Neath	A	Lost	3	-	-	1	24	5	2	-	1	48
15	Cross Keys	A	Lost	1	-	-	1	10	2	-	-	3	23
18	Newport	H	Lost	3	-	1	1	27	2	2	-	3	33
25	Llanharan	A	Won	5	-	1	1	41	4	1	-	-	33
29	Llanelli	A	Lost	-	1	-	3	14	1	1	-	3	21
OCT 9	Bridgend	A	Lost	1	-	-	3	16	1	3	-	3	31
12	Llandovery	H	Won	3	-	-	1	24	2	-	-	-	14
16	Caerphilly	A	Won	6	3	-	1	60	1	1	-	1	15
30	Pontypool	H	Won	3	1	-	3	35	-	-	-	3	9
NOV 3	Aberavon	A	Lost	1	2	-	2	23	3	1	-	2	32
17	Swansea	H	Lost	1	1	-	1	15	4	-	-	1	31
27	Ebbw Vale	A	Lost	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	-	3	28
Dec 4	Pontypridd	A	Lost	1	-	-	5	22	2	2	-	4	36
14	Neath	H	Lost	-	1	-	3	14	2	2	-	2	30
18	Bargoed (Cup)	A	Won	6	2	-	1	55	1	1	-	1	15
22	Bedwas	H	Won	1	2	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	0
30	Cross Keys	H	Won	4	2	-	2	44	1	-	-	2	13
JAN 22	Bonymaen (Cup)	H	Won	-	4	-	1	23	1	-	-	2	13
FEB 2	Llanelli	H	Won	3	-	-	3	30	1	1	-	1	15
16	Llandovery	A	Won	5	-	-	-	35	1	-	-	2	13
19	Carmarthen Quins (Cup)	A	Lost	-	1	-	2	11	2	-	1	-	17
23	Aberavon	H	Won	-	2	1	2	19	-	-	-	1	3
27	Newport	A	Lost	2	-	-	-	14	2	1	-	1	22
MAR 5	Bridgend	H	Won	2	1	-	1	22	1	1	-	2	18
9	Swansea	A	Lost	2	-	-	3	23	3	-	-	2	27
16	Bedwas	A	Lost	-	1	-	1	8	1	1	-	-	12
22	Llanharan	H	Won	2	2	-	2	30	2	-	-	-	14
APR 2	Caerphilly	H	Won	2	1	-	-	19	1	-	-	3	16
5	Newbridge	H	Won	7	1	-	-	54	2	2	-	-	24
16	Pontypool	A	Lost	2	1	-	1	22	2	1	-	3	25
23	Carmarthen Quins	A	Won	2	-	-	1	17	1	-	-	3	16
26	Newbridge	A	Won	1	2	-	3	26	2	1	-	-	19
30	Ebbw Vale	H	Won	7	3	-	-	64	-	-	-	-	0
MAY 4	Carmarthen Quins	H	Won	4	2	-	2	44	3	1	-	-	26
JUN 7	Ontario Select XV	A	Won	7	3	-	-	64	1	-	-	-	7
11	Ontario Pres. XV	A	Won	5	2	-	1	48	-	-	-	5	15