

## 1877=1878.



**J** NOW come to the season 1877-1878, when E. C. Fry occupied the post of captain, and W. D. Phillips that of vice-captain.

The fixture list shewed a considerable advance over the first season, fourteen matches in all being played. One of these matches appears to have been played between the first XV. and the next XX., in consequence of Swansea failing to put in an appearance on the appointed day.

There was a team at Pontypool known as "Pegler's Team," and this team appeared to hold pride of place as far as South Wales football was concerned. Journeys were also made to Cheltenham College and Rockleaze (Bristol).

The chief feature of this season was the institution of the South Wales Challenge Cup. A meeting of the clubs interested in football was held at the Castle Hotel, Brecon, on October 23rd, 1877, when it was decided to put up a challenge cup, value 50 guineas, to be played for by any club in South Wales subscribing £2 2s. to the fund. I append the list of the Clubs who entered, and result of the draw for the first round, wherein it will be seen that Cardiff were drawn against Carmarthen. The Cardiff *v.* Carmarthen tie took place at Swansea, and the result was given as follows:—Carmarthen, 1 goal (disputed) 3 touches-down, to 1 try and 2 touches-down; and as Cardiff did not play again in the Ties for this season, I presume that the authorities ruled in favour of Carmarthen, at all events the latter played in the second round and Cardiff did not.

From some cause or other, not now fathomable, Cardiff were not advised that they had to play Carmarthen on the 29th December, until the previous evening, and so were unable to secure more than six of the first fifteen to make the journey.

It was reported that E. C. Fry played brilliantly at quarter-back in this Cup tie, and his splendid play in the Cheltenham and Swansea matches is also recorded. One sensational feat of his was to score a try after being forced over his own line, and instead of touching down, he actually threaded his way through the whole opposing team, and scoring behind the posts.

The matches were not always played on a Saturday, as a glance at the record will show.

SOUTH WALES CUP-TIES :—

Carmarthen *v.* Cardiff, at Neath.

Talgarth *v.* Merthyr, at Merthyr.

Brecon *v.* Monmouth Grammar School, at Cardiff.

Cowbridge Grammar School *v.* Llanelly, at Neath.

Cardiff Grammar School *v.* Lampeter College, at Carmarthen.

10th G.R.V. *v.* Llandovery College, at Swansea.

Pontypool *v.* Newport, at Newport.

Llandilo *v.* Neath, at Neath.

Swansea *v.* Abergavenny, at Brecon.

Ties to be played off before December 1st.

A club had sprung up at Roath, and was called the Roath Football Club, the leading spirit in which was W. H. Treatt, who, together with some of the other members of that team, afterwards threw in his lot with the Cardiff team.

It will be noted with interest that Mr. W. D. Phillips was top scorer, with seven tries.

Another point to comment on is the goal kicking, which was so important in those days, as a goal would beat any number of tries ; and this was exemplified in the match against Roath, which Cardiff lost, although they crossed the Roath line four times, yet Roath won the match by a goal dropped by A. R. Macdonald from the 25-yards touch flag, in the last few minutes of the game.

There was a slight increase in the number of members, but there was no incentive for other than actual players to join the Club, as there was no accommodation for spectators. The subscription remained at 2s. 6d.

The formation of the team in practically all of their matches was one full-back, one three-quarter back, two half backs, two quarter-backs, and nine forwards. In one game only did the team play a flying man.

A goodly portion of the members played in one match or another, as the list of players will show.

The number of members were not many, as the following list will show.

## List of Officers.

— ✨ —  
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— ✨ —

*Committee :*

T. S. D. SELBY,	F. S. THOMAS,
W. G. JONES,	W. HERBERT,
W. HOOD,	J. HOOD.

*Captain :* E. C. FRY.

*Vice-Captain :* W. D. PHILLIPS,

*Hon. Secretary :* R. H. FOA.



E. C. FRY.

## Names and Positions of those who played during the Season.



*Full-backs :* R. H. Foa, J. G. Stothert, Cuthbert Riches, E. Clarke, E. C. Fry.

*Three-quarter-backs :* W. G. Jones, W. D. Phillips, E. C. Fry, R. H. Foa.

*Half-backs :* T. F. Thomas, F. Perch, R. H. Foa, T. Carr, W. G. Jones, R. M. Thomas

*Quarter-backs :* — Pruen, E. C. Fry, S. Decandia, F. S. Thomas, W. J. M. Herbert.

*Flying man :* W. G. Jones.

*Forwards :* A. Morris, W. D. Phillips, — Pakenham, — Julian, F. Trayes, H. F. D. Sewell, F. S. Thomas, J. A. Jones, J. H. Young, B. E. Girling, A. L. Batchelor, E. Williams, E. Thomas, Reade Robinson, J. Evans, A. Plain, C. Riches, J. J. David, G. Boole, T. M. Joseph, J. Thomas, R. Girling, J. Hood, A. Duncan, J. Lucas, W. H. Treatt, F. Perch, L. Blossie, F. J. Bannister, A. R. McDonald.

## *Record, Season 1877-1878.*

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR			AGAINST		
				Goals	Tries	Rouges	Goals	Tries	Rouges
1877.									
Nov. 10	First XV. v. Rest .. .. .	won	H	1	1	-	-	-	2
„ 17	Swansea .. .. .	lost	A	1	-	-	1	1	-
Dec. 1	Newport .. .. .	drawn	H	-	-	1	-	-	2
„ 5	Pegler's Pontypool Team ..	won	H	2	1	4	-	-	-
„ 13	Pontypool.. .. .	won	A	2	1	-	-	-	-
„ 26	Roath .. .. .	lost	H	-	4	-	1	-	-
„ 29	Carmarthen Cup Tie .. .. .	lost	Swansea	-	1	-	1‡	-	3
1878.									
Jan. 5	Swansea .. .. .	Swansea failed to put in appearance							
„ 5	XIII. v. Next XX. .. .. .	drawn	H	-	-	-	-	-	1
„ 19	Newport .. .. .	lost	A	-	-	-	2	2	7
„ 24	Abergavenny .. .. .	lost	H	1	-	-	2	-	-
„ 26	Rockleaze .. .. .	won	H	-	6	-	-	-	-
Feb. 9	Cheltenham College .. .. .	lost	A	-	-	-	3	-	-
„ 16	Rockleaze .. .. .	won	A	-	2	1	-	-	-
Mar. 9	Ely .. .. .	won	H	1	3	8	-	-	-
				8	19	14	10	3	15

‡Disputed.

Matches played, 13; won, 6; drawn, 2; lost, 5.

*Try getters* : L. Blossie, 1; B. E. Girling, 2; J. G. Thomas, 1; F. S. Thomas, 1; W. D. Phillips, 7; E. Thomas, 1; A. Duncan, 1; J. Hood, 1; W. H. Treatt, 2; W. Thomas, 1; J. G. Stothert, 1; E. C. Fry, 3; B. Batchelor, 1; R. Macdonald, 1; W. J. M. Herbert, 1. Two tries, no names given.

*List of Members, Season 1877-1878.*



Batchelor, L.	Girling, R.	Richmond, G.
Boole, G.	Gaskell, —	Read, E. C.
LeBoulanger, A.	Herbert, W.	Shirley, W. R.
Blosse, E. F. L.	Hood, W. W.	Sloggett, T. J. P.
Banister, F. J.	Hood, J. A.	Sewell, H. F. D.
Bush, J.	Howells, W. W.	Stothert, J. G.
Buckle, W.	Jones, W. E.	Thomas, J. G.
Bruford, F.	Jones, W. G.	Traves, F. S.
Carr, T. J.	Jones, J. A.	Thomas, E. D.
David, Jonas	Joy, F.	Thomas, James
David, J. J.	Joseph, T. M.	Treatt, W. H.
Duncan, A.	Johns, D. M.	Thomas, W.
Decandia, S.	Lewis, F.	Vachell, F.
Dalziel, W. G.	Morris, A.	Wait, C. W.
Evans, G. A.	Mann, B. B.	Webber, W. F. G.
Foa, R. H.	Phillips, W. D.	Woods, —
Fry, E. C.	Perch, F.	Ware, J. A.
Girling, B. E.	Randall, E.	Young, J. H.