

1879=1880.



THE first thing to note in this season is that Mr. W. D. Phillips occupied the post of captain, he having been vice-captain during the three previous seasons. The names of those who formed the Committee have been lost in the mists of antiquity. It will also be seen that only eight matches were played during the whole season, including cup-tie matches; and two of these latter were against the same club—Lampeter College. Other clubs figured on the fixture list, but from one cause or another the matches fell through. It is to be remembered that this winter was a very severe one, and for weeks skating was indulged in, to the exclusion of football. In the first Cardiff *v.* Lampeter cup-tie, Cardiff claimed to have won by a dropped goal to a try, but Lampeter appealed against the drop goal, and also alleged that Cardiff walked off the field ten minutes before the stipulated time. The authorities ordered the match to be re-played, and this time Lampeter won by 2 tries to nil.

It is interesting to note that the captains of the rival teams wrote to the papers their version. The Lampeter captain was certain that the drop at goal, alleged to have been obtained by Phillips for Cardiff, was disputed by his umpire, who affirmed that the ball passed fully two yards short of the goal-post, and even Phillips himself seemingly acknowledged that the drop was a failure. He also alleged that Cardiff retired at least ten minutes before the recognised time had arrived.

Phillips, in reply to this, asserted that there was nothing in his words or manner to warrant the Lampeter captain arriving at such a conclusion, but, on the contrary, that he (Phillips) repeatedly asserted that it was a fair goal, and that in this he was confirmed by his own umpire and the referee. Phillips also gave a distinct denial to the statement that his team retired ten minutes before the call of time, and he stated that they left the ground at the call of time, and in company with the Lampeter men themselves, who made no remark or complaint then of finishing before time.

The following were the names of the players in this match :—

Full-backs : W. B. Ferrier and J. G. Stothert.

Half-backs : F. D. Sewell and E. C. Saunders.

Quarter-backs : W. D. Phillips and P. K. Heard.

Forwards : B. B. Mann, W. H. Treatt, J. A. Jones, E. D. Thomas, J. Evans,
B. Cooper, R. Trotter, and E. Laybourne.

The match was played at Llanelly, and much excitement was manifested by the spectators, the feeling being entirely in favour of Lampeter. The play in the first half was very much in favour of Cardiff; the score at half-time being one try (scored by Saunders, after a very strong run) and three touches-down, to nil, but during the second half, the Lampeter men had the better of the game and scored two tries.

The result caused considerable surprise in South Wales football circles, as Cardiff were expected to win easily, but they had evidently neglected training, as they failed to last the game out.

There appears to have been disputes with other teams, as one occurred between Cardiff and Newport over a try, and Newport walked off the field before time was up. This match was the first that the celebrated W. B. Norton played in for Cardiff. Norton was a powerful and strong runner and earned a great reputation for handing off would-be-tacklers and he was also a great tackler himself.

W. D. Phillips also had a great reputation for knocking over opponents who tried to bar his progress.

Concerning this Cardiff *v.* Newport match, which was played on the Cardiff Arms Park, there were several hundred spectators, although a charge was made for admission to the grounds. Cardiff played one full-back, two three-quarters, one half, two quarter-backs, and nine forwards, and Newport played the same formation.

Soon after the kick-off Girling gained a try for Cardiff, which was not converted, and no further score was made until the point in dispute arose, and this dispute came about in this way. Stothert, the Cardiff back, got possession of the ball near his line and was tackled by Loane, and both fell to the ground; Loane then picked up the ball and placed it over the Cardiff goal-line. The Cardiff umpire, W. G. Jones, objected on the ground that handling a dead ball was against the rules, and that a scrummage should have been formed; the Cardiff captain, however, suggested that the disputed try should be kicked under protest, but this the Newport captain declined to do, and called his team off the field about five minutes before time.

An attempt was made to pick a fifteen from the South Wales clubs, and a match was arranged against Gloucestershire, and took place on the Spa Fields, Gloucester, but there was evidently great difficulty in getting up a team, as only ten Welshmen journeyed to Gloucester, and the Gloucester captain allowed two of his own players to play for South Wales, and only twelve aside took part in the match. Amongst those on the Welsh side were C. P. Lewis and W. D. Phillips, backs, and W. F. Evans, who was in the half-back line. The result of the game was in favour of Gloucestershire by two tries, three touches down, to nil.

It seems a pity that more matches could not have been played this season, as the team appears to have been a very good one, and the best of the lot, apparently, was E. C. Saunders, who scored ten tries, and most of them were gained by strong and skilful play. He also dropped a goal.

Another name calling for mention is that of H. J. Simpson, who then started his connection with the Club, to which he rendered many valuable services in after years.

It is to be noted that A. R. Macdonald was elected captain of the Second XV. Seven matches were arranged, two each with Newport Second XV., Caerleon and Maindee, and one against Monckton House School, but there is no record obtainable as to whether these matches were or were not played.

On the fixture card this quaint announcement is printed. "Unless notice is given to the contrary all matches will be played in any weather."



List of Officers.

◇
Season 1879=1880.
◇

Captain : W. D. PHILLIPS.

Captain Second XV. :

A. R. McDONALD.

Hon. Secretary : E. D. THOMAS.



W. D. PHILLIPS.

Names and Positions of those who played during the Season.



Full backs : J. G. Stothert, W. G. Jones, A. R. McDonald, — Simpkin, — Davies,
W. B. Ferrier.

Three-quarter backs : A. R. McDonald, W. D. Phillips, E. C. Saunders, J. G. Stothert.

Half-backs : W. Saunders, — Quarrell, C. Branfill, P. K. Heard, H. F. D. Sewell.

Quarter-backs : P. K. Heard, W. B. Norton, L. Watkins, W. D. Phillips.

Forwards : B. B. Mann, B. E. Girling, J. A. Jones, T. Knight, J. D. Evans, F. Vyvyan,
H. F. D. Sewell, W. H. Treatt, E. D. Thomas, W. H. Tapp, A. Jones,
B. Cooper, R. Trotter, H. J. Simpson, R. W. Simpson, T. J. Hinton.

Record, Season 1879-1880.

DATE	OPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR				AGAINST					
				Goals	Tries	Touches down	Touches in Goal	Goals	Tries	Touches down	Touches in Goal		
1879.													
Nov. 1	Rockleaze	won	H	—	8	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 8	Newport	drawn	H	—	1	—	—	—	1†	—	—	—	—
„ 22	Llandovery Col. (Cup. T.)	won	Swansea	*4	1	5	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Dec. 20	Swansea	—	A	Postponed (frost)									
1880.													
Jan. 10	3rd Glamorgan Volunteers	won	H	2	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
„ 17	Llandaff (Cup T.) ..	won	H	3	8	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. 14	Lampeter College ..	won	Llanelly	†1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
„ 28	Lampeter Col. (Cup T.)	lost	Llanelly	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Mar. 13	Rockleaze	won	Bristol	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
				12	23	33	—	—	7	3	—	—	—

* 2 Dropped Goals. † Dropped Goal. ‡ Disputed.

Matches played, 8; Won, 6; Drawn, 1; Lost, 1.

Try getters : E. C. Saunders, 10; W. D. Phillips, 1; J. G. Stothert, 1; W. H. Treatt, 2;
W. B. Norton, 2; P. K. Heard, 2; B. Cooper, 1; B. B. Mann, 1;
B. E. Girling, 1.

(No names of scorers in Llandaff Cup Tie).

Dropped Goals : E. C. Saunders, 1; W. D. Phillips, 1; W. B. Norton, 1.