

## 1885=1886.



**I** NOW come to season 1885-6, generally referred to as "Hancock's Year," so called because F. E. Hancock was captain, and chiefly through him the season was a particularly brilliant one; only one match being lost, and that the last one of the season, and the whole of the previous matches, 26 in number, were won, no "draw" figuring on the card. Another distinctive feature was that the Cardiff line was only crossed four times throughout the season, whereas Cardiff crossed their opponents' lines no less than 131 times.

There were no goals dropped, Hancock being somewhat opposed to anyone having a shot for goal, believing it would tend to selfishness and the spoiling of a probable try; so much was this so, that in the Cirencester match at Cirencester, although Cardiff had a comfortable lead, one player made a mark, Hancock ordered him to place it for Hughes, but the player took a drop for goal, whereupon Hancock gave him a severe talking to, and told him in the hearing of everyone on the ground that he had a good mind to send him off the field there and then, and that if he or any other player ever disobeyed orders, that player would be sent off immediately.

This had a lot to do with the discipline of the team, and all looked up to Hancock as their leader and had great respect and admiration for him. No doubt he got more out of the players than any other captain had done, and was, in my opinion, the best captain Cardiff ever had.

Out of 131 tries scored, W. M. Douglas secured the greatest number, viz., 23, but several others closely followed him.

Twenty-eight players only played for the first XV. during this season, shewing that there were very few injuries sustained.

Three players only, however, managed to play in every match, viz., H. Hughes, W. E. Jarman, and A. F. Bland.

The supporters of the Club were so pleased with the success of the team, that subscriptions were started with a view to giving the players a memento of their successful season, and a sufficient sum was subscribed to purchase medals for the

twenty regular players. These medals were presented on the occasion of the annual dinner at the Angel Hotel, on the 5th May, 1886, by the Mayor for that year, the late Dr. Edgar Jones. At the same time and for the first time caps of all blue, the same as are presented now, were given to the players.

A glance at the score sheet will call to mind the heavy scores Cardiff inflicted on Newport and Llanelly, amongst others. Concerning the Cardiff v. Newport match there was written a very amusing skit, which is well worth reproducing, called "Seeing Newport give Cardiff a Pill," I also give Sullivan's sketch of Hancock.

It was in this season that the grand stand on the sixpenny side was taken away and the centre portion of the present grandstand erected. It cost £362 and was first used as a stand on Boxing Day, the match being Cardiff v. Liverpool. It was considered of such importance that a photograph, here produced, was taken.

A steel rope was also put round the ground, in place of the hempen rope used in previous years, and footboards were also put down, so that the spectators should no longer be obliged to stand ankle deep in mud as they had frequently had to do in former years.

The four three-quarters were played regularly throughout the season by Cardiff, but very few of their opponents picked four three-quarters to meet them, but before the game was very far advanced, they generally found it necessary to put out a player to endeavour to cope with the passing machinery of the Cardiff team.

In the opinion of many good judges of the game who have followed the fortunes of the Club for the last 25 years, "Hancock's team" attained a greater degree of perfection in passing and skilled combination than any other team that has ever represented Cardiff. To W. Stadden belongs a good deal of the credit for the great number of tries scored, as he was most accurate in delivering his passes, whether long or short ones, and he was especially noted for the great length he could throw the ball. The physique of the players was nothing out of the common. In fact, they were rather a light team, five out of eight of the forwards being under twelve stone and then there was W. E. Jarman who was only about nine stone. Five of the team played for Wales against England, viz., W. M. Douglas, D. H. Lewis, A. F. Hill, W. Stadden and G. A. Young.

The same five players were in the team against Scotland, with the addition of F. E. Hancock.

The latter match was played on the Cardiff Arms Park, and Wales, for the first time, played four three-quarters, but as their forwards were being over-run, the full back, D. H. Bowen, from half-time on, played forward; A. J. Gould going from three-quarter to full-back.



This match is memorable for the wonderful runs made by A. R. Don Wauchopc, and the equally wonderful tackling of him by A. J. Gould.

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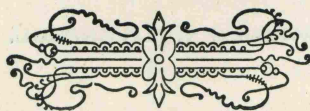
The Second XV., under the captaincy of D. E. Jones, for the second season in succession passed through undefeated, scoring 17 goals, 43 tries, to 3 tries. There were so many young players attached to the Club who could not get into the first or second teams that a third XV. was formed, and played several matches, but little interest was taken in their doings.

In consequence of the phenomenal success of the First and Second XV., there was a great influx of spectators, and the gate receipts amounted to the sum of £720 3s. 9d., and the members' subscriptions to £153 8s. 6d., and ground tickets to £36 15s.

The grand stand was paid for out of the season's income; the expenditure in other directions naturally increased, with the result that there was a deficiency of £43 13s. to carry forward to the next account.

Besides the International matches played, games were played by South Wales against Oxford University and Blackheath. The former at Oxford, on November 2nd, 1885. The Cardiff men taking part being H. Hughes, F. E. Hancock, W. Jarman, A. F. Hill, D. H. Lewis, A. F. Bland and A. Hybart. South Wales winning by 4 goals to 1 goal and 1 try.

The match against Blackheath took place at Newport, on 28th November; Blackheath winning by 2 goals 1 try to 1 goal. H. Hughes, W. M. Douglas, C. S. Arthur, F. E. Hancock, W. Stadden, W. Jarman, A. F. Hill and A. F. Bland were the Cardiff representatives.



## List of Officers.

◇  
Season 1885=1886.  
◇

Committee :

W. D. PHILLIPS      A. DUNCAN,  
H. J. SIMPSON.

*Captain* : F. E. HANCOCK.

*Vice-Captain* : A. F. HILL.

*Hon. Secretary* : W. H. TREATT.



F. E. HANCOCK.

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



*Full backs* : H. Hughes.

*Three-quarter-backs* : F. E. Hancock, W. M. Douglas, G. A. Young, C. S. Arthur,  
W. B. Norton, A. J. Stewart, O. J. Evans, A. B. Thomas.

*Half-backs* : W. Stadden, W. E. Jarman.

*Forwards* : D. H. Lewis, A. F. Bland, A. J. Hybart, Q. D. Kedzlie, A. Emery, S. D.  
Evans, R. T. Duncan, A. Milward, J. Mahoney, — Ainslie, A. F. Hill,  
H. J. Simpson, J. A. Sant, A. Price, T. Williams, F. Morris, Herbert  
W. Jones.



## Mr. F. E. HANCOCK,

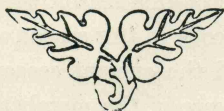
CAPTAIN OF THE CARDIFF FOOTBALL CLUB.



The subject of the above sketch needs no introduction to Welsh adherents of the national winter game, among whom his name is "familiar as household words." A Somersetshire man, bred and born, Mr. Hancock commenced his football career in the year 1878, at the early age of sixteen. Two years later he transferred his services to the Wiveliscombe Club (in which town his parents reside), and was speedily appointed to the captaincy of the Club, a position he held until leaving home for Cardiff at the latter end of 1883. Wiveliscombe occupies the proud position of first place among leading Somersetshire clubs, and under Mr. Hancock's captaincy they never lost a single match on their own ground. Mr. Hancock, however, did not confine himself purely to inter-club contests. For two years he captained his county fifteen, and led them with more or less success against such "crack" combinations as Blackheath, Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, and Devon. On taking up his residence in Cardiff, which, as we have said, was towards the close of the year, 1883, his first appearance on the local football field was in a match between the Cardiff and Newport second fifteens. The Cardiff Club at that time had not such a superabundance of talent at command that they could afford to leave so brilliant an exponent of the game as Mr. Hancock in the ranks of the second, and accordingly on the next occasion when he donned the "blue and black" it was to do battle for the premier fifteen against Cheltenham College. From then till the close of the season he took part in all the principal Cardiff matches, and also represented Wales against Ireland. In the ensuing season, which was a particularly bright one of the Cardiff Club, he did yeoman service for the town of his adoption. Then, in a most decisive fashion, the Cardiff team asserted their supremacy over their old rivals Newport, and at the close of this season they were undoubtedly at the head of South Wales Clubs. Mr. Hancock in this season played for Wales against England and Scotland. At the outset of the current season he was elected captain of the Cardiff club by the unanimous vote of the members, and it is not too much to say that never before was a similar appointment received with so large an amount of favour by the outside public. It was admitted and felt by all that the right man had been put in the right place, and a prosperous season for the Club was predicted. How far these expectations have been fulfilled, the achievements of the "Welsh



Invincibles," as the Club has lately been termed, best show. That a great deal of their success is due to Mr. Hancock there can be little or no doubt. A brilliant and unselfish player himself, he has striven to impart some of his own good qualities to those who follow him, and he has not striven in vain. Under his captaincy the team play as they never played before, and have made for themselves a reputation second to none in the football world. As all our readers know, Mr. Hancock's place on the field is at three-quarter, and few men are more thoroughly fitted for this important post. He is somewhat deficient in pace, perhaps, but more than makes amends for this by his dodging powers. Every Cardiff spectator is familiar with "Hancock's 'corkscrew' runs." But what has contributed most of all to his popularity—apart from a frank, genial disposition and utterly unaffected manner—is the thorough unselfishness of his play. If he possesses one fault it is that he is too unselfish. He tackles cleanly and well, and as a rule the man who can manage to hand him off, deserves to get away. In other respects, he is a model captain, always ready to detect where the enemy's weakness or strength lies, and to take steps accordingly. He also keeps a sharp lookout on his own men, and any shirking or bad play elicits prompt condemnation. He is not much addicted to praising, and for this reason the "Well played so-and-so," with which he occasionally greets some unusually smart piece of play is all the more highly esteemed by the individual to whom the remark is addressed. Of Mr. Hancock's performances outside his own club this season, it will only be necessary to say that he captained the Welsh team against Scotland, and the South Wales fifteen in their matches with Blackheath and Oxford University. It may be added that three of his brothers play at present for Wiveliscombe, one of these being P. Froude Hancock, who, although only about 18 years of age, has this year played for Blackheath on several occasions, for England against Scotland and Wales, and in other first-class matches. Mr. Hancock, it should be stated, is 26 years old, stands 5ft. 9½ins., and weighs 12st. 7lbs. In addition to his holding the captaincy of the football club he also captains the lawn tennis club, and for the last two years, has carried off the first prize for "Gentlemen's singles."





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**CARDIFF 1st XV.:**

*Top Row*—A. DUNCAN, A. F. BLAND, A. J. HYBART, J. A. SANT, A. EMERY, G. YOUNG,  
A. F. HILL, H. J. SIMPSON, W. H. TREATT.

*Middle Row*—W. JONES, H. HUGHES, C. S. ARTHUR, F. E. HANCOCK (*capt.*), W. M. DOUGLAS,  
Q. D. KEDZLIE, A. J. STEWART.

*Bottom Row*—D. LEWIS, J. MAHONEY, W. E. JARMAN, W. STADDEN.



## Record, Season 1885-1886.

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR		AGAINST	
				Goals	TRIES	Goals	TRIES
1885.							
Oct. 3	XVII. of District .. .. .	won	H	6	3	-	-
.. 5	Runcorn .. .. .	won	H	5	2	-	-
.. 10	Clifton .. .. .	won	A	1	3	-	-
.. 24	Swansea .. .. .	won	A	2	3	-	-
.. 31	Cirencester .. .. .	won	A	4	1	-	-
Nov. 7	Newport .. .. .	won	H	6	2	-	-
.. 14	Llanely .. .. .	won	A	6	4	-	-
.. 21	Gloucester .. .. .	won	H	4	4	-	-
Dec. 5	Moseley .. .. .	won	A	1	2	1	-
.. 26	Liverpool .. .. .	won	H	3	0	-	-
.. 30	London Welsh .. .. .	won	H	0	2	-	-
1886.							
Jan. 2	Gloucester .. .. .	won	A	0	2	-	1
.. 16	Newport .. .. .	won	A	4	1	-	-
.. 23	London Harlequins .. .. .	won	H	3	3	-	-
.. 30	Llanely .. .. .	won	H	0	1	-	-
Feb. 9	Dewsbury .. .. .	won	H	3	-	-	-
.. 13	London Harlequins .. .. .	won	A	0	1	-	-
.. 20	Cirencester .. .. .	won	H	2	5	-	-
.. 27	Cardiff Harlequins .. .. .	won	H	2	6	-	-
Mar. 6	Swansea .. .. .	won	H	2	3	-	-
.. 13	Cheltenham .. .. .	won	A	7	5	-	-
.. 20	Clifton .. .. .	won	H	2	3	-	-
.. 27	Swansea .. .. .	won	H	-	1	-	-
.. 29	Castleford .. .. .	won	H	-	1	-	-
April 3	Swansea .. .. .	won	H	-	1	-	-
.. 10	Neath .. .. .	won	H	7	1	-	-
.. 17	Moseley .. .. .	lost	H	-	1	2	-
				70	61	3	1

Matches played, 27 ; Won, 26 ; Lost, 1.

*Try getters* : W. M. Douglas, 23 ; C. S. Arthur, 22 ; F. E. Hancock, 18 ; A. J. Stuart, 14 ; W. Jarman, 10 ; D. L. Lewis, 10 ; W. Stadden, 9 ; J. Mahoney, 5 ; H. J. Simpson, 4 ; A. F. Bland, 3 ; W. B. Norton, 3 ; G. Young, 3 ; Q. D. Kedzlie, 2 ; A. F. Hill, 2 ; A. B. Thomas, 2 ; Tom Williams, 1.



# CARDIFF 2nd XV.

Season 1885-1886.

Captain :

D. E. JONES.



D. E. JONES.

## Record.

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR		AGAINST	
				Goals	TRIES	Goals	TRIES
1885.							
Oct. 3	Pontypridd .. .. .	won	A	1	1	-	-
„ 10	Bristol Arabs .. .. .	won	H	3	5	-	-
„ 17	Treherbert .. .. .	won	A	-	1	-	-
„ 24	Swansea Seconds .. .. .	won	H	2	5	-	-
„ 28	Chepstow .. .. .	won	H	4	6	-	-
„ 31	Tresillian Harlequins .. .. .	won	H	1	2	-	1
Nov. 7	Newport Seconds .. .. .	won	A	2	1	-	-
„ 14	Llanelly Seconds .. .. .	won	H	-	1	-	-
„ 21	Swansea Seconds .. .. .	won	A	2	2	-	1
Dec. 5	Pontypridd .. .. .	won	H	1	3	-	1
„ 19	Maindee (Newport) .. .. .	won	H	-	2	-	-
„ 26	Chepstow .. .. .	won	A	1	2	-	-
1886.							
Jan. 16	Newport .. .. .	won	A	1	11	-	-
„ 23	Brynymor .. .. .	drawn	A	-	-	-	-
„ 30	Llanelly Seconds .. .. .	won	A	-	1	-	-
Feb. 13	Brynymor .. .. .	won	H	-	1	-	-
				17	43	-	3

Matches Played, 16 ; Won, 15 ; Lost, 0 ; Drawn, 1.