

1895=1896.



R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT was the unanimous choice of the members for the post of captain, and he nominated Frank Mills as his vice. The season was a successful one, as of the thirty-two matches played, twenty-five were won, two drawn and five lost. The scoring was not particularly heavy, but a feature to be noted is that there were five goals dropped.

The Club suffered a loss by the migration to Newport of T. W. Pearson, who had during the preceding summer obtained the post of Engineer to the Alexandra Dock Co., he of course, playing for Newport, but he could not bring himself to play against his old Club in the first match. Pearson's place was ultimately filled by Vivian Huzzey, who was destined to rise to highest honour as a wing three-quarter, his partnership with Gwyn Nicholls attaining considerable fame, Gwyn Nicholls having by this time developed into an ideal centre. Selwyn Biggs only played in a few matches, he being resident in London, and giving Richmond the benefit of his services; his place was generally filled by J. E. Elliot, who was moved from half to three-quarter and three-quarter to half as occasion demanded and doing credit to both positions. Another player who afterwards attained celebrity, viz., "Hockey" Driscoll, sometimes played half-back, and T. Savage also played a few times. Tom Dobson, F. Cornish and Jere Blake and "Pussy" Jones, who all subsequently attained international honours, came into prominence. Watty Davies also played in a good number of matches, and his well-known goal-kicking ability was then in evidence.

The fixture list was much the same as usual, but two Scotch teams paid us visits—Gala and Hawick, and Jed Forest. Swinton were again on the list, but this was the last season for them to be met, as they joined the ranks of the Northern Union, being about the last Northern club of note to join that organisation.

The first match for Cardiff to lose this season was the one against Blackheath, at Blackheath, on the 30th November, and it is worthy of mention that this is the last game Blackheath has succeeded in winning down to the issue of this book. Cardiff had about their best team out that day. It was a most vigorous game, the Blackheath forwards playing a wonderfully strong game towards the end, and enabling their club to win in the last few minutes of the game. The Blackheath team contained about a dozen internationals, chief among whom were J. H. C. Fegan,

W. B. Thomson, R. H. Cattell, F. H. Maturin, F. C. Lohden and H. W. Finlinson. Newport accounted for two of our losses, but we had the satisfaction of beating Swansea twice. The Rhondda Valley District was another match we lost.

This match ought not to have been played, as the ground was quite unfit for football, but as a big crowd would have been disappointed, the game was allowed to go on, and it was understood by some of the players that it was an exhibition game.

The match against Swansea, on February 1st, calls for special comment from the fact that the Brothers James turned out for Swansea, after undergoing two and a half years' expulsion for not conforming to the Rugby Amateur Laws. Swansea led at half time by a dropped goal and a try to nil. Bancroft dropping the goal two minutes after the start, and Evan James getting the try just before half-time. In the second half, after passing by Elliot, Nicholls and "Pussy" Jones, Huzzey scored a try, and later, Elliot scored behind the posts, and a goal was kicked, leaving Cardiff winners of an exciting match.

Our last meeting with Swinton, on Easter Monday, was played before an immense crowd, and ended in a handsome victory for Cardiff. Norman Biggs dropped a goal, and T. J. Thomas scored a try in the first half, and T. Dobson, Norman Biggs, Watty Davies and W. Phillips gained tries in the second half; Watty Davies scoring his although he was playing full-back.

The Second XV.'s season was a fairly good one. They played thirty-one matches, winning twenty, drawing seven, losing four, and scoring 235 points to 39.

The total receipts from all sources amounted to £2,844 11s. 9d.; the gate receipts being £1,766 18s. 8d., as against £1,848 13s. 6d. last season. Members dropped to 1,113. Among the items on the expenditure side appeared £288, share of gate to other clubs; the rail fares amounted to £214 6s. 7d; the expenses at out-matches £373 2s. 5d. £150 was given in charities, and £32 5s. in donations to local clubs. Draining the ground cost £100, and the balance to the good was £111 12s. 8d.

The £1,055 18s. incurred in the summer of 1895 was paid out of deposit account, reducing such account to £600.

The following players played against England:—E. George and F. Mills. It is worthy of note that both these players had obtained their caps previous to playing for our Club. E. G. Nicholls and S. Biggs, W. Cope and W. Davies (Barry), played against Scotland; and E. G. Nicholls was our only representative against Ireland.

List of Officers.

Season 1895-1896.

President : H. J. SIMPSON.

Vice-Presidents :

A. DUNCAN. DR. THOS. WALLACE.

Captain : R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT.

Vice-Captain : F. MILLS.

Match Committee :

A. F. BLAND, W. M. DOUGLAS,
S. H. NICHOLLS, W. D. PHILLIPS.

Ground Committee :

H. M. INGLEDEW, A. LEWIS,
W. H. TREATT.

Captain Reserves : J. E. FRANCIS.

Vice-Captain : G. L. MORRIS.

Committee :

J. V. ARMAN, A. M. RICKETTS,
J. E. MERRETT, W. M. TUNLEY.

Hon. Treasurer : A. F. HILL.

Secretary : CHAS. S. ARTHUR.



R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT.

Names and Positions of those who played during the Season.



Full-backs : Alun Morgan, Wat. Davies, H. V. P. Huzzey, Sergt. Foster, T. J. Thomas.

Three-quarter backs : A. M. Ricketts, J. E. Elliott, N. Biggs, E. G. Nicholls, T. J. Thomas, W. Jones, W. J. Evans, P. B. House, H. V. P. Huzzey, T. Williams, B. Tiley, J. Driscoll, S. Jones, J. Conway Rees, Wat. Davies, Sergt. Foster.

Half-backs : R. B. Sweet-Escott, S. Biggs, J. Driscoll, T. Savage, J. E. Francis, J. E. Elliott.

Forwards : F. Mills, Gus. Lewis, W. J. Elsey, E. Emery, S. Ramsey, W. Phillips, W. Davies (Barry), T. Dobson, F. Cornish, S. Cravos, C. R. V. Wallace, D. Wallace, G. L. Morris, W. Bryant, E. H. Davies, W. Davies, E. H. Gunn, S. Hill, W. Cosslett, G. Abbott, E. George, J. Blake.

1895-1896.



W. BARRY DAVIES. STEVE CRAVOS. W. PHILLIPS. G. ABBOTT. E. GEORGE. ALUN MORGAN. H. V. P. HUZZEY
TOM DOBSON. FRANK MILLS. R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT (*capt.*) E. G. NICHOLLS. W. J. ELSEY.
J. DRISCOLL. J. E. ELLIOT.

Record, Season 1895-1896.

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR			AGAINST		
				Goals	Tries	Points	Goals	Tries	Points
1895.									
Sept. 21	Bristol	won	H	3	6	33	-	-	-
" 28	Barnstaple	won	H	1	2	11	2	-	10
Oct. 5	Devonport Albions	won	A	-	1	3	-	-	-
" 12	Gloucester	won	H	1	-	5	-	1	3
" 19	Newport	drawn	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 26	United Hospitals	won	H	-	3	9	1	-	5
Nov. 2	Moseley	won	A	2	1	11	§1	-	4
" 9	Morrison	won	H	†1	3	13	†1	-	4
" 13	Cambridge	drawn	A	-	1	3	-	1	3
" 16	Bristol	won	A	1	1	8	-	-	-
" 23	Newport	won	H	-	2	6	1	-	5
" 30	Blackheath	lost	A	-	-	-	1	1	8
Dec. 14	Oxford	won	H	1	4	17	-	-	-
" 21	Penarth	won	H	-	4	12	-	1	3
" 26	Rhondda Valley District	lost	H	-	-	-	-	1	3
" 28	Gala and Hawick	won	H	-	5	15	-	-	-
1896.									
Jan. 1	Jed Forest	won	H	*1	6	21	-	-	-
" 4	Neath	won	A	-	1	3	-	-	-
" 11	Swinton	lost	A	-	-	-	1	-	5
" 18	Devonport Albions	won	H	-	4	12	-	-	-
Feb. 1	Swansea	won	A	1	1	8	†1	1	7
" 8	Moseley	won	A	-	3	9	-	-	-
" 15	Newport	lost	A	†1	-	4	1	2	11
" 22	Gloucester	won	A	1	1	8	-	-	-
" 29	Blackheath	won	H	-	6	18	-	-	-
March 7	Penarth	won	A	1	1	8	-	1	3
" 14	Neath	won	H	4	1	23	-	-	-
" 21	Newport	lost	H	-	-	-	1	1	8
" 28	Swansea	won	H	-	2	6	-	-	-
April 4	Barbarians	won	H	2	2	16	-	1	3
" 6	Swinton	won	H	†3	4	26	-	-	-
" 8	Percy Park	won	H	2	2	16	-	-	-
				26	67	324	11	11	85

§ Mark Goal. † One dropped. †† Two dropped. * One Penalty.

Matches played, 32; Won, 25; Drawn, 2; Lost, 5.

Goals for, 26. Goals against, 11.

Tries for, 67. Tries against, 11.

Points for, 324. Points against, 85.

Try getters : H. V. P. Huzzey, 18; Norman Biggs, 11; J. E. Elliot, 10; Wat. Davies, 7; Gwyn Nicholls, 6; J. Driscoll, 4; W. J. Elsey, 4; R. B. Sweet-Escott, 3; W. Jones, 3; S. Biggs, 3; F. Mills, 4; E. George, 2; T. J. Thomas, 2; W. Phillips, 2; W. Davies, 2; A. M. Ricketts, 1; T. Dobson, 1; F. Cornish, 1; J. Blake, 1; A. Morgan, 1; J. Foster, 1.

Converted Goals : N. Biggs, 6; H. V. P. Huzzey, 1; W. Phillips, 1; Wat. Davies, 12;

Dropped Goals : N. Biggs, 2; J. Driscoll, 2; H. V. P. Huzzey, 1.

Penalty Goal : T. J. Thomas.