

## 1896=1897.



**J.** E. ELLIOT succeeded R. B. Sweet-Escott in the post of captain, and he nominated S. Biggs his vice. There was no competition for places on the General Committee, as not more than the right number were nominated, but the Match Committee were balloted for, and A. F. Hill, the Treasurer, formed one of that Committee.

All last season's prominent players turned out again with the exception of R. B. Sweet-Escott, and S. Biggs was partnered by each of the following players in different matches : J. Driscoll, T. Savage, J. E. Elliott, and J. Heaven. R. B. Sweet-Escott was a half-back of exceptional all round ability—was able to work the scrum or play outside half ; he was a fearless tackler and stopper of rushes, and an excellent drop kick and punt.

The three-quarter line was a strong one, and the scoring was consequently heavy, 46 goals and 66 tries being obtained in the 30 matches played, Huzzey and Nicholls standing well in this department with 29 and 15 tries respectively. "Pussy" Jones also played frequently, and showed that he was going to be a first-class player. Geo. Dobson found a place in the 1st XV., and scored 6 tries. He was a finely built player, and when in form, which was not always, he more than held his own in the best of company. Driscoll was another player who gave promise of attaining the highest honours in football, and earned considerable fame from the successful marking of T. W. Pearson in the Newport matches.

Coming to the matches played, Newport (three), Swansea and Moseley were the only teams to beat us, the defeat by Moseley being the first for our Club to sustain from Moseley since the memorable match in Hancock's year. This match was lost more by our men's bad play than Moseley's superior skill, as we had innumerable chances of scoring, and Moseley only had one. Of our losses against Newport, Pearson was responsible for the first, he snapping the ball practically out of Driscoll's hands, and racing over with a great try. It was a splendidly contested game, and our men made heroic attempts to score, but they failed to notch a point. Another feature of the match was the duel between N. Biggs and Pearson, who were a very well matched pair in every way, but Pearson was the cooler, and this enabled him to out-play Norman to a slight degree. A. J. Gould was chiefly responsible for our second

defeat from Newport, he dropping two goals. The third match is chiefly to be remembered from the fact that the Referee that day, Mr. George Harnett, was mobbed, and as a result our ground was subsequently suspended for five weeks.

The victory over Oxford was a particularly creditable one considering we had several good men away ; S. Biggs and Frank Mills showed very fine form that day, and stood out by far the best players on the field.

The Cambridge match proved to be one of the best played between the two clubs. We had all the best of the first half, and led by a goal and two tries to a goal, but in the second half the visitors played up well and got level with us, and it was a good thing for Cardiff that time arrived when it did. Mackie played a fine three-quarter game for Cambridge, and made a good impression on the Cardiff spectators.

It is to be noticed that only in three matches did we fail to score at all, also that we gained a substantial victory over Swansea at Cardiff on April 3rd. This was the third meeting between these teams, and ended in a great triumph for our men. Our halves, Biggs and Elliot, gave a brilliant exposition of football, and their efforts were ably backed up by Nicholls, Huzzey, Jones and Driscoll. S. Biggs scored a remarkable try : he picked up the ball about the the Swansea 25 line, and feinting to pass, doubled back, and so completely diddled the Swansea men that he actually walked the last dozen yards or so to the goal-line—as cool and clean a bit of play as has ever been seen.

It was in this season that the Club, in order to encourage football among the boys, put up a Challenge Cup for competition for boys under 17 years of age, and sixteen teams competed, the winners being the Canton Crescents, and to each player of the winning team was presented a silver medal.

The Reserves' record for the season was a good one, only 4 of the 28 matches being lost, and 2 drawn. Score for 43 goals, 57 tries, to 11 goals and 14 tries.

The financial statement showed a falling off of close on £300 in the season's receipts, but this was partly accounted for by the very wet season, several of our best matches being played on very rainy days. The balance to the good was £500 12s. 11d. Repairs to ground, turfing, rolling, etc., cost £122 14s. 2d., and the erection and repair of stands amounted to £103 2s. 0d. Charities benefited to the extent of £55, and local teams to the extent of £71 17s. 6d.

Only one International match was played this year, that against England at Newport, when Wales won by 2 goals and 1 try to nil. Selwyn Biggs, F. H. Cornish, and E. G. Nicholls being the Cardiff representatives. Scotland and Ireland were not met, owing to the presentation made to A. J. Gould being objected to by these countries as savouring of professionalism.

## List of Officers.

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Season 1896=1897.  
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*President* : H. J. SIMPSON.

*Vice-Presidents* :

A. DUNCAN, DR. THOS. WALLACE.

*Captain* : J. E. ELLIOT.

*Vice-Captain* : S. BIGGS.

*Match Committee* :

A. F. BLAND, A. F. HILL,  
W. M. DOUGLAS, S. H. NICHOLLS.

*Ground Committee* :

H. M. INGLEDEW, W. D. PHILLIPS,  
W. H. TREATT, R. B. SWEET-ESCOTT.

*Captain Second XV.* : E. H. GUNN.

*Vice-Captain* : A. M. RICKETTS.

*Committee* :

J. E. MERRETT, W. M. TUNLEY.

*Hon. Treasurer* : A. F. HILL.

*Secretary* : CHAS. S. ARTHUR.



J. E. ELLIOT.

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



*Full-backs* : Alun Morgan, Sergt. Foster, T. J. Thomas, J. E. Jones, H. Rees, H. B. Winfield, W. Davies.

*Three-quarter-backs* : N. Biggs, J. E. Elliot, E. G. Nicholls, H. V. P. Huzzey, J. Williams, W. Jones, J. Driscoll, T. J. Thomas, W. R. Richards.

*Half-backs* : S. Biggs, J. Driscoll, T. Savage, J. E. Elliot, J. Heaven.

*Forwards* : E. Emery, G. Abbott, F. Cornish, J. Blake, J. Bowley, W. J. Elsey, E. George, T. Dobson, J. Thomas, G. Dobson, C. R. V. Wallace, G. Bowler, H. Hall, E. H. Gunn, W. McIntyre, D. Evans, W. Phillips, H. Morgan, F. Mills, Sergt. Leary.

1896=1897.



W. H. TREATT. W. J. ELSEY. E. EMERY. W. PHILLIPS. GEO. DOBSON. G. ABBOTT. J. BLAKE. W. M. DOUGLAS.  
W. JONES. H. V. P. HUZZEY. E. G. NICHOLLS. J. E. ELLIOT, (*capt.*) F. H. CORNISH. J. DRISCOLL. TOM DOBSON.  
T. J. THOMAS. SELWYN BIGGS.

## Record, Season 1896-1897.

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR			AGAINST		
				Goals	Trices	Points	Goals	Trices	Points
1896.									
Sept. 26	Cardiff District .. .. .	won	H	1	3	14	†1	-	4
Oct. 3	Neath .. .. .	won	H	3	1	18	-	-	-
" 7	Devonport Albion .. .. .	won	H	-	5	15	-	1	3
" 10	Bristol .. .. .	won	A	1	2	11	-	-	-
" 17	Newport .. .. .	lost	H	-	-	-	-	1	3
" 24	Gloucester .. .. .	won	A	-	3	9	-	-	-
" 31	United Hospitals .. .. .	won	H	-	4	12	-	-	-
Nov. 7	Swansea .. .. .	lost	A	-	-	-	-	1	3
" 14	Moseley .. .. .	lost	A	-	1	3	1	-	5
" 21	Morrison .. .. .	won	H	†2	1	12	-	1	3
" 23	Oxford University .. .. .	won	A	2	4	22	2	1	13
" 28	Newport .. .. .	lost	A	-	-	-	§2	2	15
Dec. 15	Cambridge University .. .. .	drawn	H	1	2	11	1	2	11
" 19	Blackheath .. .. .	won	A	1	-	5	-	-	-
" 26	Watsonians .. .. .	won	H	2	4	22	1	-	5
" 28	Blackheath .. .. .	won	H	†1	4	16	1	1	8
1897.									
Jan. 2	Neath .. .. .	won	A	2	1	13	-	-	-
" 4	Old Merchant Taylors .. .. .	won	H	2	1	13	-	-	-
" 16	Morrison .. .. .	won	A	1	1	8	-	-	-
Feb. 6	Moseley .. .. .	won	H	1	4	17	-	-	-
" 13	Newport .. .. .	lost	H	-	2	6	3	-	13
" 20	Penarth .. .. .	won	A	-	4	12	-	-	-
Mar. 6	Devonport Albion .. .. .	won	A	2	2	16	-	1	3
" 13	Newport .. .. .	won	A	0	1	3	-	-	-
" 20	Swansea .. .. .	won	A	-	3	9	§1	1	7
" 27	Treherbert .. .. .	won	A	3	4	27	1	-	5
April 3	Swansea .. .. .	won	H	†3	2	20	1	1	8
" 10	Penarth .. .. .	won	H	5	4	37	-	-	-
" 19	Barbarians .. .. .	won	H	†5	1	27	1	-	5
" 22	Glamorgan League .. .. .	won	H	5	2	31	-	-	-
				43	66	409	16	13	114

† One Dropped.    || Two Dropped.    § One Mark.

Matches played, 30; Won, 24; Drawn, 1; Lost, 5.

*Try-getters* : H. V. P. Huzzey, 29; E. G. Nicholls, 15; W. Jones, 10; J. Driscoll, 10; S. Biggs, 7; G. Dobson, 6; J. E. Elliot, 6; W. J. Elsey, 3; F. Cornish, 3; G. Abbot, 3; J. Williams, 2; N. Biggs, 2; A. Oweo, 1; C. R. V. Wallace, 1; A. Ricketts, 1; T. Dobson, 1; F. Mills, 1; W. Phillips, 1; E. Emery, 1; J. Blake, 1; T. J. Thomas, 1.

*Drop Goals* : J. Driscoll, 2; E. G. Nicholls, 1; H. V. P. Huzzey, 1.