

1897=1898.



**S**ELWYN BIGGS succeeded to the Captaincy, Gwyn Nicholls becoming Vice-captain, and an exceptionally successful season ensued, as we were able to place in the field pretty well the same team match after match, and our half-back line was remarkably strong, in the persons of Selwyn Biggs and J. E. Elliot. The three-quarter line was also a strong one, Nicholls, Huzzey, "Pussy" Jones and Driscoll attaining a high degree of skill. Our forward line was also strengthened at times by the inclusion of Dai Evans, Bob Jones, Dick Hellings, and R. H. Alexander, all of whom were Welsh Internationals. Our first defeat came from Swansea, the first Saturday in November, and the next from Neath on February 12th, the latter being the first match of the season in which we failed to score a point. In the match we played against Neath at Cardiff in the beginning of the season, we scored 54 points to nil. It is worthy of mention that Neath had not scored a point against us in the seven preceding matches played between the Clubs. It is difficult to account for our loss at Neath, as we had about our best team out, but probably the loss of our full-back, T. J. Thomas, in the first five minutes of the game partly accounted for it, and Joe Davies, the Neath full-back, was a big stumbling block to our men, whilst they had a good half-back named Powell. Our third defeat came from Gloucester, who deprived us of a ground record. It is to be noticed that three Rhondda Valley teams were met, Llwynypia being played away and home. The match at Llwynypia on October 16th was a terribly gruelling game, Llwynypia being very strong at that time, and had not been beaten during the previous season, nor in the matches preceding ours in this season. The match created immense interest in the Rhondda, and a large crowd assembled to witness the game, and during the progress of the match a temporary structure on the cheap side of the field, on which a number of spectators had climbed, collapsed, and one poor fellow was killed. The game was stopped for a little while, but it was not known until afterwards that the injuries had proved fatal. Newport, it will be noticed, were defeated four times, three times by handsome scores, and this, by the way, was the first time for us to beat them four times in the same season. In the first match A. J. Gould and T. W. Pearson were not in the Newport ranks, R. T. Skrimpshire and F. G. Whale taking their places, and this may have had something to do with our big win. Selwyn Biggs and J. E. Elliot played well at half, and "Pussy" Jones and E. G. Nicholls in the centre made some wonderful openings. Our forwards were also better than the Newport forwards. It is interesting to note that Hodges and George Boots were in the Newport team. At



the next meeting Cardiff were without Selwyn Biggs, and Newport had re-arranged their back team, Pearson coming in with G. Ll. Lloyd to the three-quarter line, and L. A. Phillips partnered Mat Hannen at half. The game was not up to the usual standard of Cardiff-Newport matches, rain and wind interfering with the play, " Pussey " Jones, who was always a thorn in the side of Newport, scored the try. The third meeting was full of interest and excitement, as Newport had a lead at half-time of a penalty and two tries to a try. Directly after change of ends, McIntyre got a clever try by feinting to pass, going over himself. For a long time after this play was of a ding-dong character, with Cardiff still one point behind, then " Pussy Jones " scored, and later Nicholls got a try behind the posts, which Huzzey failed to convert, and a little later Huzzey scored a try, after which Driscoll scored, thus ending the scoring. Elliot, Nicholls, Jones, and Driscoll played superbly that day. Harking back to the Swansea match, which we lost, Selwyn Biggs was unable to play that day, and Driscoll partnered Elliot at half. T. J. Thomas took Driscoll's place on the wing. The Brothers James were in the half-back line for Swansea. Cardiff led at half time by a goal to a try, Nicholls making a fine run up to Bancroft and then passing to " Pussy " Jones, who scored close to the posts. In the second half Swansea with the wind in their favour, had the better of the play and scored two tries.

A reference to the fixture list will show the words " abandoned owing to fog " against the Blackheath date on December 18th. This will convey little idea to the reader of what London fog is like unless he has experienced it. On this particular occasion we set out from Charing Cross about 1.30 p.m., and in the ordinary course should have arrived at Blackheath station in about 35 minutes, but on this occasion we proceeded by such easy stages that we arrived at Blackheath station about 4.0. It was as black as night there, so we immediately got into a train to get back to Charing Cross, which station we ultimately reached at 7.0, having practically been in the train close on six hours.

The record of the Reserves was as follows :—Played 33, won 26, drawn 1, lost 6. Score for : 60 goals, 47 tries, to 13 goals, 22 tries.

With such a successful 1st XV. record, the gate receipts naturally showed an increase, being £2,092 4s. 7d. The members numbered close on 1,200, and there was nothing abnormal in the expenditure, except that a sum of £453 11s. 3d. was given to Charities, £100 of this amount going to the Seamen's Hospital, and £90 to form a Scholarship at the University College. The balance in hand was £304 14s. 6d.

Selwyn Biggs, J. E. Elliot, E. G. Nicholls, H. V.P. Huzzey, W. Jones, F. Cornish and T. Dobson played against England at Blackheath, when England won by 1 goal, 3 tries, to 1 goal, 1 try, and the same men played against Ireland at Limerick. The dispute with Scotland had not been settled in time to arrange a date.



## List of Officers.



Season 1897=1898.



President : A. DUNCAN.

Vice-Presidents :

H. J. SIMPSON, W. H. TREATT.

Captain : SELWYN BIGGS.

Vice-Captain : E. GWYN NICHOLLS

Match Committee :

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

Ground Committee :

J. E. ELLIOT, W. T. MORGAN,  
JNO. GIBSON, W. H. TREATT,  
W. D. PHILLIPS.

Captain Reserves : A. M. RICKETTS.

Vice-Captain : E. H. GUNN.

Hon. Treasurer : A. F. HILL.

Secretary : CHAS. S. ARTHUR.



SELWYN BIGGS.

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



Full-backs : T. J. Thomas, H. B. Winfield, W. J. Jones, J. E. Jones.

Three-quarter-backs : J. Driscoll, W. Jones, E. G. Nicholls, H. V. P. Huzzey, A. M. Ricketts, J. Williams, Ivor P. Jones, F. F. Bush.

Half-backs : J. E. Elliot, S. Biggs, J. Driscoll, J. Heaven, C. Halliday.

Forwards : T. Dobson, F. Cornish, G. Abbott, W. Phillips, G. Dobson, W. J. Elsey, J. Blake, A. M. Jenkin, E. Emery, F. Mills, G. Bowler, T. Davies, D. Evans, R. Jones, Dick Hellings, W. McIntyre, W. H. Alexander, W. W. Hughes, A. Owen, C. Harding, F. J. Box



1897-1898.



GEO. LEWIS. T. J. THOMAS. W. PHILLIPS. G. ABBOTT. W. McINTYRE. G. BOWLER. H. V. P. HUZZEY. S. H. NICHOLLS.  
(*trainer*).

GEO. DOBSON. TOM DOBSON. E. G. NICHOLLS. SELWYN BIGGS (*capt.*) W. JONES. F. H. CORNISH.

J. DRISCOLL.

J. HEAVEN.

W. W. HUGHES.



# CARDIFF RESERVES.



1897-1898.



G. LEWIS (*trainer.*) W. M. TUNLEY. W. WILLIAMS. A. OWEN. G. BOWLER. C. HALLIDAY. W. WILLIAMS. J. E. MERRETT  
J. BATSTONE. H. B. WINFIELD. T. DAVIES. A. M. RICKETTS (*capt.*) IVOR P. JONES. F. J. BOX. C. SPACKMAN.  
J. WILLIAMS. F. LEWIS. F. F. BUSH. J. HEAVEN.



## Record, Season 1897-1898.

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR			AGAINST		
				Goals	TRIES	Points	Goals	TRIES	Points
1897.									
Sept. 18	District League .. .. .	won	H	6	3	39	-	-	-
„ 25	Neath † .. .. .	won	H	†8	5	54	-	-	-
Oct. 2	Devonport Albion .. .. .	won	H	2	3	19	-	1	3
„ 9	Bristol .. .. .	won	A	3	6	33	-	-	-
„ 16	Llwynypia .. .. .	won †	A	†3	-	14	-	1	3
„ 23	Newport .. .. .	won †	A	‡3	2	20	-	1	3
„ 30	United Hospitals .. .. .	won	H	*2	3	17	-	-	-
Nov. 6	Swansea .. .. .	lost	A	1	-	5	-	3	9
„ 13	Moseley .. .. .	won †	A	-	2	6	†1	-	4
„ 20	Morrison .. .. .	won	H	2	5	25	-	-	-
„ 27	Newport .. .. .	won	H	-	1	3	-	-	-
Dec. 1	Cambridge .. .. .	won	A	1	1	8	-	1	3
„ 11	Penarth .. .. .	won	H	2	1	13	-	-	-
„ 18	Blackheath .. .. .	Abandoned	owing to fog.						
„ 22	Oxford University .. .. .	won	H	-	1	3	-	-	-
„ 24	Edinburgh University .. .. .	won	H	2	3	19	-	-	-
„ 27	South Shields .. .. .	won	H	2	1	13	-	1	3
1898.									
Jan. 1	Blackheath .. .. .	drawn	H	2	1	13	2	1	13
„ 8	Penygraig † .. .. .	won	H	3	5	30	-	-	-
„ 15	Bristol .. .. .	won	H	†2	3	18	-	-	-
„ 22	Devonport Albion .. .. .	won	A	1	6	23	1	2	11
„ 29	Treherbert .. .. .	won	H	‡6	4	40	-	-	-
Feb. 5	Gloucester .. .. .	won	A	†1	2	10	-	-	-
„ 12	Neath .. .. .	lost	A	-	-	-	*1	2	9
„ 19	Moseley .. .. .	won	H	1	3	14	-	-	-
„ 26	Newport .. .. .	won	A	1	5	20	*1	2	9
Mar. 5	Swansea .. .. .	drawn	H	-	-	-	-	-	-
„ 12	Penarth .. .. .	drawn	A	*1	1	6	*1	1	6
„ 26	Newport .. .. .	won	H	3	1	18	-	-	-
April 2	Gloucester .. .. .	lost	H	1	-	5	†2	-	9
„ 9	Barbarians .. .. .	won	H	-	2	6	-	-	-
„ 11	Llwynypia .. .. .	won	H	2	1	13	-	-	-
				61	71	507	9	16	85

† One Dropped. \* One Penalty. ‡ Two Dropped. § Mark.

Matches played, 31; Won, 25; Drawn, 3; Lost, 3.

*Try-getters* : H. V. P. Huzzey, 27; E. G. Nicholls, 17; W. Jones, 17; J. Driscoll, 16; S. Biggs, 9; F. Cornish, 9; J. E. Elliot, 6; G. Dobson, 5; A. M. Ricketts, 3; J. Heaven, 3; T. Dobson, 3; J. Blake, 2; W. Phillips, 2; W. McIntyre, 2; W. H. Alexander, 1; F. F. Bush, 1.

*Dropped Goals* : W. Jones, 2; T. J. Thomas, 2; †H. V. P. Huzzey, 1; E. G. Nicholls, 1.

*Penalty Goals* : H. V. P. Huzzey, 2; J. Driscoll, 1.