

## 1903=1904.

---



FOR the fourth time Gwyn Nicholls became captain, nominating C. F. Biggs his vice. The best of last season's players again turned out, and R. T. Gabe became a regular player. Johnnie L. Williams also found a place in the early part of the season, Percy Bush not having started. There were plenty of good forwards to select from, and A. Brice became stationed near Cardiff and threw in his lot with us ; but the chief difficulty was at half-back, until Percy Bush and R. David became associated, first playing together in the London Welsh match on December 24th. Another celebrated player, Dr. A. B. Timms, came to Cardiff, and he played his first match against Swansea, on the 28th November, 1903, but even his presence in the three-quarter line with R. T. Gabe and E. G. Nicholls did not enable us to win, although we had hard lines in not making a draw of it, as the score was level—one try each—until the last moment of the game, when Swansea notched another try, almost on the touch-in-goal line, secured by Scrines.

The first point to notice in the fixture list is that four matches were played with Swansea and they accounted for four of our six defeats, and Newport and Neath for the other two. Apart from the Swansea matches, the season was a very successful one, the score of 51 goals 55 tries to 8 goals 15 tries being very creditable ; quite a number of teams failing to score against us. The biggest score was at the expense of the Barbarians, who had a very good team out, but our men were in exceptionally brilliant form ; the combination between Nicholls and Gabe being of the very highest order, and Percy Bush making some electrifying runs. Another match which calls for special comment was that against Llanelly, at Llanelly. Gabe stood down, and Dr. Timms was unable to make the journey, but otherwise Cardiff had a good team out ; but to defeat Llanelly on their own ground has always been a most difficult task so far as Cardiff is concerned. Cardiff played down the slope in the first half, and those who know the Llanelly ground know what a big advantage this is, and held their own fairly well, standing a try to nothing to the good at half-time, but having to start the second half without Gwyn Nicholls, who had been injured and forced to retire a little before half-time ; our chance of ultimate success was not bright, and as the second half progressed Llanelly played with irresistible dash,



and obtained the lead by 1 goal to 1 try. This lead they looked like adding to, as they made continuous onslaughts on our line; but about three or four minutes before the call of time we got a little over half-way, when Percy Bush got hold of the ball, and made a wonderfully clever run, dodging several Llanelly men in extraordinary fashion, and scoring a try wide out, which Winfield converted into a goal. There never was a match which was pulled out of the fire with more dramatic suddenness, as all the Cardiff supporters had abandoned any hope of winning the game. Another match that was won practically on the call of time was the one on the Albion ground, when Devon were leading by a try to nothing and having all the best of the game, when Gunstone dropped a beautiful goal, to the terrible disappointment of the spectators.

The annual matches with Oxford and Cambridge were dropped because they could only play mid-week matches, and the expenses were heavy, as they were played on the half-gate principle, and our share of the half-gate from them was not enough to pay rail expenses, besides which we were finding it most difficult to get our men to make the journey in mid-week.

Two matches on our ground, outside our Club matches, are worthy of mention, one was the first School Boys' International (England *v.* Wales), which ended greatly in favour of the Welsh boys, as the following score shows:—

Wales : 1 goal 6 tries, 23 points.    England : 1 goal, 5 points.

The science displayed was marvellously good, and augured well for the future of the Rugby game in Wales. The other was the great East *v.* West match, played on April 6th (Easter Tuesday), when 20,000 people assembled to witness a grand struggle. In the East team were E. G. Nicholls, R. T. Gabe, P. F. Bush, A. Brice and W. Neill; the East winning by 2 converted goals and 2 dropped goals to 1 dropped goal and 1 try. This is the match where Nicholls was injured before half-time, and Hodges pulled out to three-quarter, and later on in the game "Teddy" Morgan had to leave the field of play, and the East finished with only thirteen men on the field.

The summary of results of the Reserves matches were:—Played, twenty-eight; won, sixteen; lost, seven; and drawn, five. Score for, 19 goals 54 tries, to 7 goals 15 tries.

At the end of the season, the erection of the new pavilion was put in hand; the Football and Cricket Clubs having agreed to contribute towards the cost of the same in the proportion of 54 per cent. for the Football Club to 46 per cent. of the Cricket Club, and the sum of £662 17s. was paid on account by the 30th June.



With reference to the financial position, the total income had risen to £3,912 3s. 5d : the gate receipts, number of members, and number of workmen's tickets, all being considerably more than heretofore. Charities were not forgotten—£55 being voted ; local clubs were given £83 15s. 6d. ; and the Cardiff Schools' Rugby Football Union were given £61 10s. The amount standing on deposit was £1,100.

None of the season's Internationals were played on our ground, but the regular members of our team who played for Wales against England were, A. Brice, R. T. Gabe, E. G. Nicholls, and H. B. Winfield. Against Scotland, A. Brice, R. T. Gabe, W. Neill and H. B. Winfield ; and against Ireland, A. Brice, R. T. Gabe, W. Neill and H. B. Winfield.





## *List of Officers.*



Season 1903-1904.



*President* : W. D. PHILLIPS.

*Vice-Presidents* :

A. H. DUNCAN, H. J. SIMPSON.

*Captain* : E. G. NICHOLLS.

*Vice-Captain* : C. F. BIGGS.

*Committee* :

A. F. BLAND, W. T. MORGAN,  
W. M. DOUGLAS, JOHN DAVIES,  
W. PHILLIPS, W. STANIFORTH,  
JOHN GIBSON.

*Captain Reserves* : M. WAYNE MORGAN.

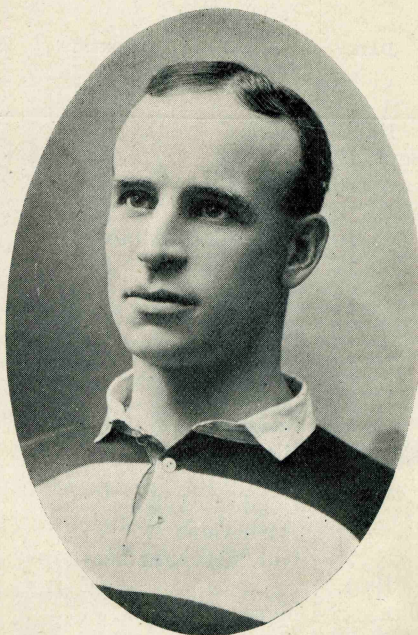
*Vice-Captain* : D. L. EVANS.

*Committee* :

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

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

*Secretary* : CHAS. S. ARTHUR.



E. GWYN NICHOLLS.



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



*Full-backs* : H. B. Winfield, F. Woods, W. H. Gunstone, E. Jennings, F. Young.

*Three-quarter-backs* : C. F. Biggs, E. G. Nicholls, R. T. Gabe, J. L. Williams, Wayne Morgan, A. B. Timms, W. H. Gunstone.

*Half-backs* : E. Coughlin, W. Bence, R. David, W. Jones, G. Hughes, C. Tresize, P. F. Bush, F. Davies.

*Forwards* : W. Neill, W. Jenkins, A. Spackman, J. Hague, G. Northmore, J. Brown, A. Owen, D. Reed, F. Evans, F. Smith, A. Brice, E. Harding, W. J. Ham, J. McIntyre, H. Hutchings, D. Pyke, E. Jennings, E. Rumbelow, J. Harding, J. Bowen, E. Franks, D. L. Evans, E. Lewis, H. Summerhayes, P.C. Edmunds, D. Westacott, Jack Davies.



1903-1904.



	W. HAM.	W. D. PHILLIPS ( <i>president</i> ).	FRED SMITH.
G. NORTHMORE.	W. SPACKMAN.	E. HARDING.	Dr. A. B. TIMMS.
		W. H. GUNSTONE.	A. NASH ( <i>trainer</i> )
A. BRICE.	H. B. WINFIELD.	E. GWYN NICHOLLS ( <i>capt</i> ).	C. F. BIGGS
		R. T. GABE.	
	J. L. WILLIAMS.	P. F. BUSH.	R. DAVID.



# Record, Season 1903-1904.

DATE	OPPONENTS					RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR			AGAINST		
								Goals	Tries	Points	Goals	Tries	Points
1903.													
Sept. 19	District	..	..	..	..	won	H	*4	3	27	-	-	-
" 26	Penarth	..	..	..	..	won	H	1	3	14	-	1	3
Oct. 3	Bristol	..	..	..	..	won	A	-	2	6	†1	-	4
" 10	Devonport Albion	..	..	..	..	won	H	†2	1	12	*1	-	3
" 17	Newport	..	..	..	..	lost	A	-	-	-	†1	-	4
" 24	Swansea	..	..	..	..	lost	H	-	-	-	-	1	3
" 31	Leicester	..	..	..	..	won	A	*4	2	24	-	-	-
Nov. 7	Moseley	..	..	..	..	won	H	*3	4	25	-	-	-
" 14	Gloucester	..	..	..	..	won	A	†2	3	18	-	-	-
" 21	Newport	..	..	..	..	won	H	*2	1	9	-	1	3
" 28	Swansea	..	..	..	..	lost	A	-	1	3	-	2	6
Dec. 12	Blackheath	..	..	..	..	won	A	†3	2	20	-	-	-
" 19	Neath	..	..	..	..	won	H	1	1	8	-	1	3
" 24	London Welsh	..	..	..	..	won	H	†3	3	23	1	-	5
" 26	Barbarians	..	..	..	..	won	H	†6	4	41	-	1	3
" 28	Old Merchant Taylors	..	..	..	..	won	H	†1	3	13	-	-	-
1904.													
Jan. 2	Moseley	..	..	..	..	Abandoned	(frost)						
" 9	Penarth	..	..	..	..	won	A	3	1	18	-	-	-
" 16	Bristol	..	..	..	..	won	H	†3	3	23	-	-	-
" 23	Llanelly	..	..	..	..	won	A	1	1	8	1	-	5
" 30	Blackheath	..	..	..	..	won	H	1	3	14	-	-	-
Feb. 13	Swansea	..	..	..	..	lost	H	†1	-	4	1	1	8
" 20	Newport	..	..	..	..	drawn	A	-	1	3	-	1	3
" 27	Gloucester	..	..	..	..	won	H	§1	1	7	-	1	3
Mar. 5	Devonport	..	..	..	..	won	A	†1	-	4	-	1	3
" 12	Neath	..	..	..	..	lost	A	-	1	3	2	-	10
" 19	Newport	..	..	..	..	drawn	H	-	1	3	-	1	3
" 26	Swansea	..	..	..	..	lost	A	-	-	-	-	1	3
April 2	Barbarians	..	..	..	..	won	H	1	1	8	-	-	-
" 4	Rockliffe	..	..	..	..	won	H	*4	3	25	-	-	-
" 9	Leicester	..	..	..	..	won	H	†2	5	24	-	2	6
" 16	Llanelly	..	..	..	..	won	H	†1	1	7	-	-	-
								51	55	394	8	15	81

† One Dropped. \* One Penalty. \*\* Two Penalties. § From mark.

|| Two Dropped.

Matches played, 31; Won, 23; Drawn, 2; Lost, 6.

*Try-getters* : Cecil Biggs, 23; R. T. Gabe, 10; J. L. Williams, 10; P. F. Bush, 9; Gwyn Nicholls, 8; A. B. Timms, 5; A. Spackman, 4; W. H. Gunstone, 4; E. Harding, 3; W. Bence, 1; H. Hutchings, 1; E. Coughlin, 1; F. Smith, 1; E. Jones, 1; W. Ham, 1; D. Pike, 1; R. David, 1; W. Neill, 1; D. Franks, 1.

*Dropped Goals* : Percy Bush, 6; Gwyn Nicholls, 2; W. H. Gunstone, 1; J. L. Williams, 1; Cecil Biggs, 1; A. B. Timms, 1; W. Jones, 1.

*Penalty Goals* : H. B. Winfield, 5; C. F. Biggs, 1.

*Mark Goal* : C. F. Biggs.