

CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Season 1978/79

General

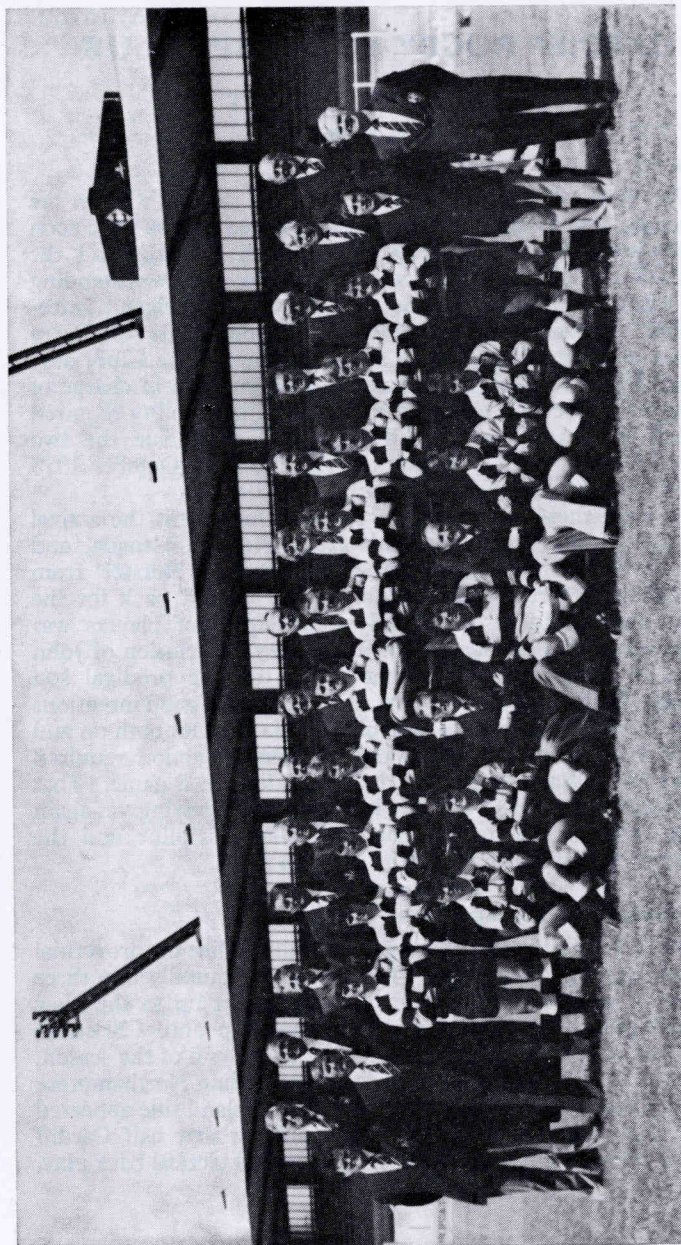
The heady days of mid-August with the sterling wins in the Aberaeron Sevens and the C.H.S.O.B. Jubilee Sevens were soon overshadowed by the retirement of Gareth Edwards and the resignation of Gerald Davies as club captain. Notwithstanding such traumatic beginnings, the winning of the Bridgend International Centenary Sevens and the appointments of Barry Nelmes and Gareth Davies to the leadership of the Club, ably advised by that seasoned campaigner Mervyn John in charge of the Rags for a second term, ensured that initial stability required to play the traditional Cardiff game and to pursue the two avowed Club aims of defeating the All Blacks in October 1978 and of winning the W.R.U. Cup in May 1979.

To scale these twin peaks of rugby achievement the arrival of internationals Hans de Goede from Victoria, Canada, and John Scott from Rosslyn Park, plus Robert Norster from Abertillery, augured well in stiffening the Cardiff pack for the battles ahead. An already good young squad of players was further strengthened later in the season by the inclusion of John Dixon from Abertillery and the return of our prodigal son Brynmor Williams from Newport. But the road of good intentions was to be paved with many difficulties and obstacles both on and off the rugby field, not least the disciplinary action required against Mike Watkins prior to the Wales-France B game. That was a salutary lesson to all our playing squad, stressing yet again in the most serious terms that individual discipline and the reputation of the Cardiff Club go hand in hand.

The season in retrospection

For C.R.F.C. the 1978/79 season overall was like the proverbial Curate's egg—good in parts. The season fell naturally into three distinct phases—a vigorous and sustained start up to the New Zealand game; a period of mixed fortunes up until Christmas time; and in 1979 a laudable resurgence to the end of the season. With 10 out of 11 games won up to and including Northampton, a victory against an untried, new-look New Zealand side appeared likely, but in the final analysis a magnificent first half Cardiff forward effort was not matched by mature and tactical back play,

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB (FIRST XV)—SEASON 1978-79



Back Row:

A. D. S. BOWES, A. D. WILLIAMS, B. MARK, C. T. HOWE, T. L. WILLIAMS, C. D. WILLIAMS, P. GOODFELLOW, K. A. ROWLANDS, M. L. COLLINS, LLOYD WILLIAMS, C. H. NORRIS, W. H. WILKINS, D. M. JAMES, L. M. SPENCE.

Second Row:

P. NYHAN, R. BEARD (*Coach*), P. DANIELS, G. DAVIES, (*Vice-Captain*) T. HOLMES, T. CHARLES, R. NORSTER, I. ROBINSON, J. SCOTT, S. LANE, J. DIXON, A. PHILLIPS, J. EVANS (*Coach*), T. HOLLEY (*Hon. Masseur*).

Seated:

N. WARD, H. DAVIES, J. DAVIES (*Chairman*), B. NELMES (*Captain*), A. J. FRIDAY (*Hon. Secretary*), M. MURPHY, D. PREECE.

and the result was 17-7 in favour of Graham Mourie's Eighth All Blacks. From thence to Christmas time the Club's fortunes ominously vacillated and only five out of 11 games were won. Then, before the New Year could be rung in, a heart-warming resurgence began with the home defeat of Pontypridd, and overall in 1979 the record showed 14 victories and only four defeats. Unfortunately, the optimism engendered on Boxing Day was dissipated in the Ice Age climatic conditions of January and February. Following the saga of two postponed games and one abandoned game against Pontypool, the sweet taste of victory in the W.R.U. Cup at Pontypool Park was so shortly enjoyed as within one week Cardiff slithered irresistibly out of the Cup to Pontypridd in the paddy-field of Sardis Road. And whilst the recriminations flew thick and fast, Bridgend arrived at and left the Arms Park with yet another typical victory under their belts. The team's tremendous victory after three years in a running game against the Barbarians, and the outstanding personal contribution of Terry Holmes with three tries in nine minutes, redeemed our rugby reputation and thankfully the season ended on a high optimistic report. The attendance at the Baa Baas game of our Club President Mr. Hubert Johnson on his 74th birthday, after his long illness, brought tributes from Committee, players and members alike.

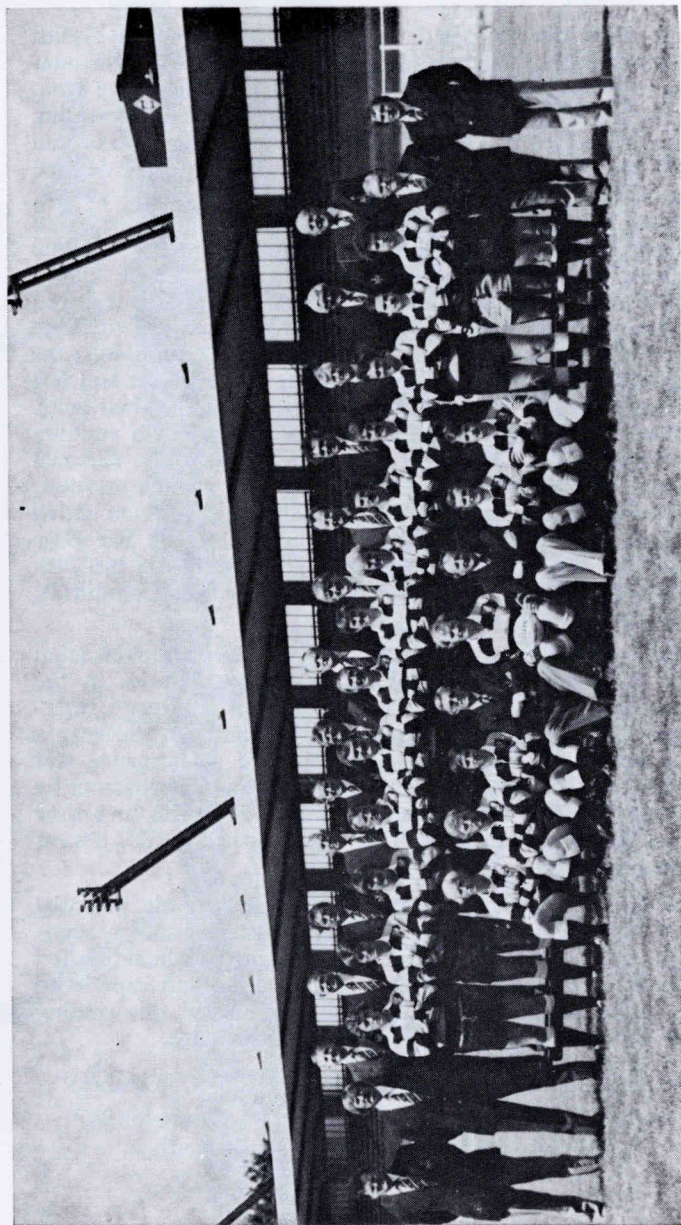
In the realm of Sevens, though we remained champions from August 1978 to May 1979, as witnessed by victories in the Aberaeron Sevens, C.H.S.O.B. Jubilee Sevens, Bridgend International Centenary Sevens and the Northampton Sevens, a second string Cardiff team in a lack-lustre performance was ignominiously tumbled out of the 1979 Snelling Tournament by enthusiastic, skilful Penarth and Maesteg. For the first time since its inception, Cardiff will not play in the W.R.U. Sevens Tournament.

Overall during the playing year, the team's basic potential was not fully realized, and too often inconsistency and susceptibility in pressure situations induced tactical errors which resulted in defeats. Let us hope that the harsh realities and experience gained this year can be hardened and tempered this coming August on the Club's projected tour of South Africa.

Full Playing Record 1978/79 (including W.R.U. Cup games):

Played 43 Won 30 Lost 11 Drawn 0 Points for 947
Points against 407 (2 games abandoned)

CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB (ATHLETIC XV)—Season 1978-79



Back Row:

B. MARK, A. D. WILLIAMS, C. T. HOWE, T. L. WILLIAMS, C. D. WILLIAMS, P. GOODFELLOW, K. A. ROWLANDS, M. L. COLLINS, LLOYD WILLIAMS, C. H. NORRIS, D. M. JAMES, W. H. WILKINS, L. M. SPENCE.

Second Row:

P. NYHAN, R. BEARD (Coach), GLYN DAVIES, P. REES, L. O'BRIEN, D. LLEWELLYN, P. RAWLINS, I. ROBINSON, A. ELLISON, B. LAKIN, G. MEEHAN, D. CHURCH, J. WHITEFOOT, S. MILLER, D. MILLER, A. D. S. BOWES, J. EVANS (Coach).

Seated:

A. YEANDLE, B. NEWMAN, J. O'BRIEN, J. DAVIES, (Chairman) M. JOHN, (Captain) A. J. FRIDAY (Hon. Secretary), J. DAVIES, M. HENRY

Most Appearances: C. Camilleri 37, R. Norster 36, Gareth Davies 30, H. de Goede 29, P. Daniels 29, T. Holmes 28, B. Nelves 28, J. Scott 28.

Highest Points Scored: Gareth Davies 275 (new C.R.F.C. record), T. Holmes 96, C. Camilleri 72, H. Davies 60.

Leading Try Scorers: T. Holmes 24 (record for C.R.F.C. scrum half), C. Camilleri 18, P. Daniels 16, D. Preece 14, M. Murphy 12, A. Phillips 10, Gareth Davies 10 (including 1 pen. try).

First XV Caps Awarded to: H. de Goede, J. Scott, D. Preece, J. Dixon, H. Davies.

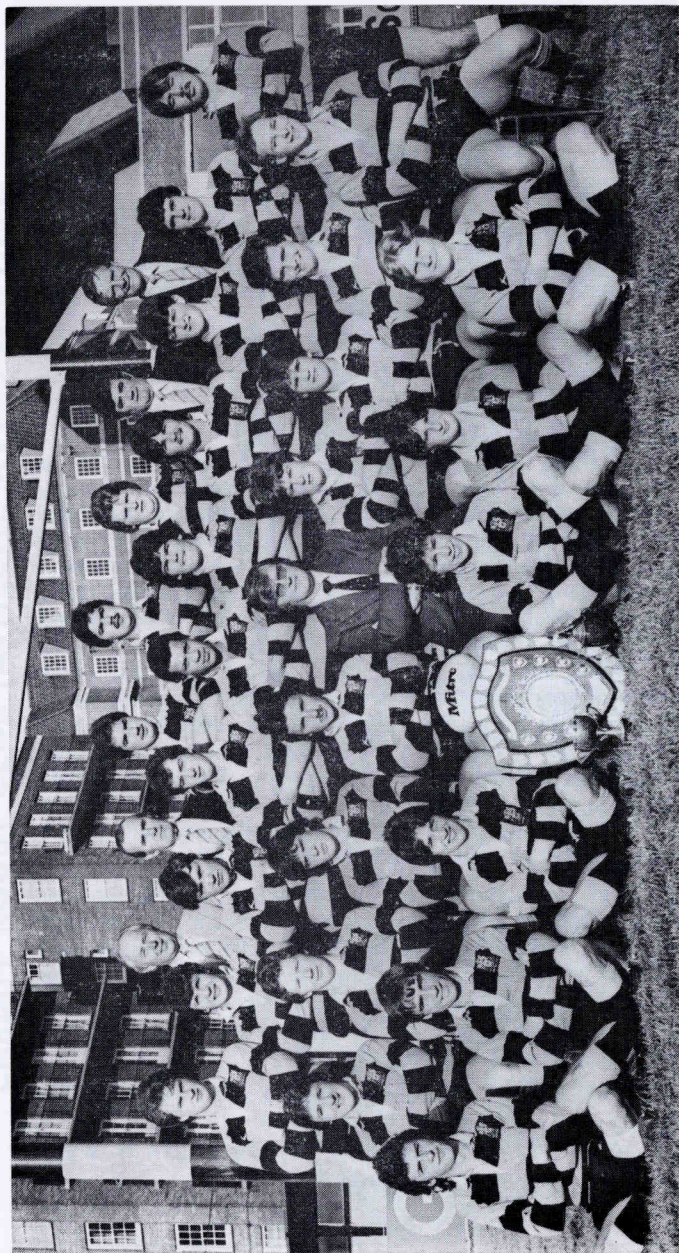
Cardiff Athletic XV

For the Rags, 1978/79 season has been a highly successful rugby story of consistent, high standard, enjoyable open rugby, and not since seasons 1884/85 and 1885/86 has success been measured in "invincibility". Rather like D. J. Hayward before him, Mervyn John can rightly retire with his star in ascendancy. The team's good fortune has largely been owed to his quiet and patient leadership, plus the calculated mixing of senior and younger players, and measured at its highest in a string of 15 victories of over 30 points each. Only Gareth Davies and Terry Holmes did not participate in this success. The vagaries of Silver Ball organization meant relegation from that competition, even though both finalists Bridgend Sports and Llanharan succumbed to the Rags during the season. Old enemies Coventry Extras, Newport United and Pontypool United were notable Rags "doubles" and Cork Constitution were well received at the beginning of the season and suitably dispatched.

Enjoyable commemorative games were played against C.H.S.O.B. and the President of Wiveliscombe's XV, and the tour to North Wales resulted in the defeats of Bangor and Llandudno. The Club can look forward next season to celebrating the special centenary of the Rags in a proper and fitting style, though lacking the leadership of Mervyn John, who has announced his retirement from rugby.

Most Appearances: M. John 23, M. Henry 20, J. O'Brien 21, J. Whitefoot 21.

Highest Points Scored: J. O'Brien 119, J. Pritchard 104, N. Ward 72, J. Davies 57.



Back Row:

Third Row:

Second Row:

Seated:

L. JONES, G. DONOVAN, T. SOUTO, P. SOUTO, A. GILHAM, J. O'DONNELL, P. T. GOODFELLOW.

A. DUNGEY, P. HERRON, S. BLACKMORE, S. LAKIN, C. FORD, T. CRUTHERS, J. MANDERS, N. WILLIAMS, H. OWEN, S. WILLIAMS

K. TRIVETT, M. HADLEE, T. COLLINS, M. POWELL (Captain), P. DAVIES (Coach), C. DAVIES, A. BARTLETT, S. DAW, G. ANDERSON.

R. TURNER, T. ATTER, M. BURRIDGE, J. SEYMOUR, M. GOLDSWORTH, S. DUDRIDGE.

Leading Try Scorers: M. John, R. Lane, D. Preece and P. Rees 11, D. Thomas and N. Ward 10, S. Miller 9, A. Yeandle 8, J. O'Brien 7.

Rags Caps Awarded to: A. Yeandle, J. Whitefoot, M. Henry.

Full Playing Record 1978/79:

Played 33	Won 32	Lost 0	Drawn 1	Points for 999
				Points Against 235

Honours

The statistical lists which are included in this report bear testimony to team and individual performances. The awarding of caps is a unique Cardiff tradition and it is fitting that congratulations be offered to R. Norster, H. de Goede, J. Scott, D. Preece, J. Dixon, H. Davies, A. Yeandle, J. Whitefoot and M. Henry. Leading points scorers were Gareth Davies, T. Holmes, J. O'Brien and J. Pritchard. Our contribution on the international field was immense in the selection of G. Davies and T. Holmes for Wales throughout the current season and J. Scott for England. S. Lane in Australia and against Ireland and A. Phillips against England continued the trend. And as B. Nelmes went out of the England team another young "Englishman" H. Davies seems set fair for similar honours.

Thanks

To the Rugby Committee, all good men and true, I offer sincere thanks for your unstinting support throughout the year. My special thanks go to H. Norris (Vice Chairman), A. Priday (Hon. Secretary), P. Nyhan (Asst. Hon. Secretary), K. Rowlands (W.R.U. delegate), L. Williams (E. District delegate) and B. Mark (Fixture Secretary) for their good counsel and sympathy, and in particular to a hard working Selection Committee, including the Club coaches, J. Evans, R. Beard and P. Davies, for time and energy spent conscientiously in selection and the organization of coaching. John Evans, an ex-Cardiff player, has now announced his resignation after four years of coaching C.R.F.C. His loyalty and inestimable service to the Club have never been doubted and we shall always accord him a special welcome in the Cardiff Clubhouse.

To K. George and his office staff; to A. Francis, Ground Manager and his staff together with B. Hardiman; to Mr. H. Richards, the Club doctors and dentist, physios and masseurs;

to Mrs. G. Parsons, Stewardess, and her bar staff; to the Supporters Club and Mr. and Mrs. T. John in particular; to D. Davies and all the Club Stewards; and to St. Albans Band—I am exceedingly grateful for the effort and time that you have all expended to make Cardiff R.F.C. the great club it is.

To Mrs. D. Pill and family, we pay tribute to her late husband Don Pill, C.R.F.C. Committee man, who so admirably served the Junior Section and whose passing has been a tragic loss to the Club and to the rugby world.

And finally, to Mike Knill, who left Cardiff for pastures greener in Penarth, and to that most popular and genuine Canadian Hans de Goede, who now returns to Victoria, Canada, we offer them "thanks", good wishes and "you're welcome"!

CARDIFF YOUTH XV

Played 29 Won 25 Lost 3 Drawn 1 Points for 704 Points against 163.

130 tries scored—Tony Dungey, who played in every game, scored 35 tries (a record for Cardiff Youth). Captain: Mark Powell, 3 tries, 19 penalties and 44 conversions, 157 points.

Appearances: Tony Dungey 29, Mark Powell 24, John Manders, Tim Crothers and Andrew Gilham 23.

Colours awarded to: Tony Bartlett, Paul Colwill, Clive Davies, Tony Dungey, Matthew Hadley, John Manders, Rupert Stewart and Peter Souto.

International caps: David Bishop, Tim Crothers, Mark Powell, Peter Souto and Kevin Trevett.

Player of the Year: Matthew Hadley.

Achievements: Winners Cardiff and District Sevens, Cleve Sevens. Runners-up Tiverton Sevens.

Cardiff and District Awards: Most promising back, Kevin Trevett. Sevens player of the competition, Philip Forde.

Outstanding team performance: On 30th April at Memorial Ground, Bristol, versus Bristol Colts. Despite having nine players engaged in District training, beat Bristol 13-4.

JOHN DAVIES, *Chairman C.R.F.C.*

RECORD OF RESULTS—SEASON 1978-79

CARDIFF FIRST FIFTEEN

Date	Opponents	H. or A.	Rslt.	Score for					Score against						
				G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.
1978															
Sept. 1	East District ..	H	Won	3	5				38	1	2		1		17
6	Glam. Wanderers	H	Won	4	7		1		55	1	1		1		13
9	Neath ..	A	Won	1	1		1		13		2		1		11
13	Bristol ..	A	Won	4	3	1	1		42	1	2				14
16	Coventry ..	H	Won	8	7				76	1			1		9
20	Penarth ..	H	Won	7	5				62						0
23	Aberavon ..	A	Won	1	2				14		1	1	2		13
27	Pontypridd ..	A	Lost	1			1		9	2	1	1	2		25
30	Moseley ..	A	Won				3		9				1		3
Oct. 7	Newport ..	H	Won		1	1			7						0
14	Northampton ..	A	Won	1	1				10				1		3
21	NEW ZEALAND	H	Lost		1	1			7	1	2		1		17
25	Bridgend ..	A	Lost	1	1				10	1		1	1		12
28	Harlequins ..	A	Won	3	3		2		36				4		12
Nov. 1	Pontypool ..	H	Lost		2		2		14		1		4		16
4	Maesteg ..	H	Won	1	1				10		1		1		7
11	Ebbw Vale ..	A	Lost	1	1				10	1	1		1		13
25	Llanelli ..	H	Lost				3		9	2			1		15
29	Oxford Univ.	H	Won	5	2		3		47	1			2		12
Dec. 2	Swansea ..	A	Lost		1				4	1	1				10
9	London Welsh	A	Won	1	4		1		25	1	2		2		23
26	Pontypridd ..	H	Won	2			2		18						0
30	Coventry ..	A	Won	4	3				36		1				4
1979															
Jan. 1	Bath ..	H													
6	Moseley ..	H													
19	Heriots F.P.	A	Won		1				4				1		3
27	Aberavon ..	H													
Feb. 2	Bective ..	H	Won	3	3				30				2		6
10	Bristol ..	H													
14	Bristol ..	H													
24	Newport ..	A													
27	Llanelli ..	A	Lost	1					6	2					12
Mar. 3	Ebbw Vale ..	H													
6	Bridgend ..	H	Lost		1		2		10	1		2			12
10	Pontypool ..	A	Won	3	3	1	1		36		1		2		10
16	London Welsh	H	Won	2	2		1		23				1		3
21	Ebbw Vale ..	H	Won	1	1	1			13						0
24	Newport ..	A	Won	2			3		21		1		2		10
31	Swansea ..	H	Won	2	1	1	1		22	1	1				10
April 7	Gloucester ..	A	Lost				1		3	1					6
14	BARBARIANS	H	Won	5	1		2		40		4		2		22
16	Harlequins ..	H	Won	1	3		1		21	2			1		15
21	Neath ..	H	Won	4	1		1		31	1					6
27	Aberavon ..	H	Won	1	1		2		16				2		6
	TOTALS ..			73	69	6	35	0	837	22	25	5	40	0	370

* Postponed and Cancelled matches. † Cancelled—WRU Cup Adjustment.

‡ Abandoned matches.

Cardiff First Fifteen— *continued*

W.R.U. CHALLENGE CUP

Date	Opponents	H. or A.	Rslt.	Score for					Score against					Pts.
				G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	
1978														
Nov. 18	Whitland ..	H	Won	5	8		1		65		1	1		6
Dec. 23	Crumlin ..	H	Won	2					12					0
1979														
Jan. 13	Pontypool ..	..*	A											
27	Pontypool ..	..*	A											
Feb. 10	Pontypool ..	..†	A											
24	Pontypool ..	..	A	1	2	1	2		23	1		2		12
Mar. 3	Pontypridd ..	..	A	1	2	1	1		7	1		1		9
	TOTAL ..			8	11	1	4	0	107	2	0	1	4	27

* Postponed and Cancelled matches.

† Abandoned matches.

CARDIFF 'SEVENS' RESULTS 1978/79

August 1978 — Aberaeron — Winner.

August 1978 — C.H.S.O.B. Jubilee Sevens — Winner.

September 1978 — Bridgend Centenary International Sevens — Winner.

April 1979 — Northampton Sevens — Winner.

May 1979 — **Snelling Sevens**

Beaten in Pool D under new system. Failed to qualify for WRU Sevens.

Captain: BARRY NELMES

Vice Captain: W. G. DAVIES

Full Playing Record including WRU Cup Games 1978/79

P	Abandoned	W	L	D	Points For	Points Against
43	2	30	11	0	947	407

32

CARDIFF ATHLETIC FIFTEEN

Date	Opponents	A.	Rslt.	Score for					Score against						
				G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.
1978															
Sept. 1	Penygraig ..	..	A	Won	4	3				36	1			1	9
6	Llanharan ..	..	A	Won	3	5	1			41	1				6
9	Cork Constitution ..	..	H	Won	1		2			12				3	9
13	Bristol Utd.	..	H	Won	1	1	1	1		16	1	2			14
16	Coventry Extras	..	A	Won	4	1				28				2	6
20	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	..	A	Won	3	4		1		37		1		2	10
23	Ebbw Vale Ath.	..	H	Won	2	1	1			19	1				6
27	Pontypridd Ath.	..	H	Won	6	1				40	1				6
30	Moseley Ath.	..	H	Won	5	2				38	1			1	7
Oct. 7	Newport Utd.	..	A	Won		3		1		15	1	1			13
14	Harlequin Wanders.	..	H	Won	1	2	1	1		20	1		1	1	12
21	Taibach ..	..*	A												
25	Cilfynydd ..	..	H	Won	9	2				62				1	3
28	Bridgend Sports	..	H	Dr'n					1	3				1	3
Nov. 4	Crumlin ..	..	H	Won	3	3		1		33	1			3	15
11	Pontypool Utd.	..	H	Won	3	2		1		29					0
18	Penygraig ..	..†	H												
	Mountain Ash	..	H	Won	1	1	1	1		16			2		6
25	Talywain ..	..	A	Won		3		1		15				1	3
Dec. 2	Pontypridd Ath.	..	H	Won	3	1		2		28		1		2	10
9	Pyle ..	..	H	Won	3	3		1		33	1			3	15
16	Neath Ath.	..†	H												
23	Bridgend Sports	..	A	Won	1	3				18		1			4
30	Coventry Extras	..	H	Won	5	5				50		1			4
Jan. 6	Moseley Ath.	..*	A												
27	Pontypool Utd.	..*	A												
Feb. 10	Bristol Utd.	..*	A												
17	Bargoed ..	..*	H												
21	Bargoed ..	..	H	Won	6	7				64					0
24	Abercynon ..	..	H	Won	1	1		1	1	16		1		1	7
28	Pontypool Utd.	..	A	Won	4	3				36		1		1	7
1979															
Mar. 3	Pyle ..	..	A	Won	1	1				10				3	9
10	Pontypool Ath.	..	H	Won	1	1		2		16					0
24	Newport Utd.	..	H	Won	4	2		1		35	1	2			14
31	Swansea Ath.	..	A	Won	2			2		18	1			2	12
April 3	Llantwit Major	..	A	Won	5	2	1			41	1			1	9
7	Gloucester Utd.	..	H	Won		2		1		11				1	3
11	Taibach ..	..	A	Won	6	4	1			55		1		1	7
20	Bangor ..	..	A	Won	8	3				60				1	3
21	Llandudno ..	..	A	Won	4	6				48				1	3
	TOTALS ..				100	78	10	19	0	999	13	12	3	34	0/235

* Postponed and Cancelled matches. † Cancelled—WRU Cup Commitment.

Captain: MERVYN JOHN

Full Playing Record 1978/79:

P	W	L	D	Points For	Points Against
33	32	0	1	999	235