CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEASON 1980/81

One of the greatest honours which can be attained by a Cardiff player is to be elected Club captain; as a Cardiff Committee man the greatest honour is to be Chairman of the Cardiff Rugby Football Club. It was one of the proudest moments of my life when I was elected Chairman for this season and I felt I had attained both "the penny and the bun"!

The season was also the Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Year and part of the celebrations would be the visit of the All Blacks; the challenges were there for all to see. Could the Cardiff team emulate the famous victory of the 1953 Cardiff XV and having just failed to win the Schweppes Challenge Cup in our Centenary Year could we go one better this year? Time would tell and it did; no repeat victory over the men from "Down Under" but "Glory Be!" the Schweppes Cup at last; but more of this later.

The start in September was far from auspicious with three defeats — albeit all away to Bristol, Neath and Aberavon — but what was of greater concern was the immediate lack of key players as a result of injuries. With the first visit of Nice to the Cardiff Arms Park another chapter was written in our "French Connection". It was also our pleasure to welcome at this game the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor John Edwards, who proved to be a staunch supporter throughout the season.

On behalf of District B of the Welsh Rugby Union it was our privilege and pleasure to host, at a farewell luncheon, overseas delegates to the very successful W.R.U. Conference of Coaches and Referees. Although not all the representatives of the forty six countries present at the conference were at this function, it was even so a unique occasion.

October saw the final build-up to the New Zealand game but because of injuries-at one stage twelve players with first XV experience were undergoing treatment-we were never able to field a settled team. Defeats by Bridgend and Pontypridd, again away and under floodlights, although doing nothing to help our confidence undoubtedly made the side more determined. This became evident in the New Zealand game for although we lost by 16pts. to 9pts. we did, as John Scott pointed out at the after-match dinner, win the second half 3pts. to nil. On the strength of this he suggested that the

'81 side could join the '53 side for the "Sweet Course" at their annual re-union!

During the month it was also the privilege of the Club to entertain the Zimbabwe team and officials who were on tour in England. This was a small gesture of appreciation for the fabulous hospitality which had been extended to us when touring Rhodesia, as it then was, in 1972. As events have turned out it would appear that we are again in debt to our rugby friends from Zimbabwe.

A series of victories followed the game against the All Blacks but again we lost, albeit narrowly, in another away game under floodlights, this time at Moseley. However, the month of November saw us through the First Round of the Schweppes Cup in atrocious conditions at Tonyrefail.

In December the side began to realise its full potential. Seven wins were recorded and amongst our victims were Pontypool, where the second half in particular contained everything good in rugby, and Pontypridd and Newbridge-the latter two in the space of two days. We also defeated British Steel at home in the second round of the Cup and, perhaps even more significantly, Swansea at St. Helens. There was now no doubt that the side was responding to the leadership of John Scott, who was probably playing his best ever rugby.

Even though injuries were still with us it was thought that New Years's Day would see us lay the "Bridgend Bogey" of 12 games at the Arms Park without a win. It was not to be and Steve Fenwick's "Siege Gun" kicking won the day. The third round of the W.R.U. Cup saw Tredegar visiting the Arms Park for the first time but a comfortable win for John Scott's team saw them into the quarter finals. This game was midway through January and although victories were recorded over Moseley, London Welsh and Aberavon, Llanelli avoided our completing the double over them by virtue of a great display by Phil Bennett in what was probably his last game aginst us.

February saw the quarter finals of the Cup and again we were fortunate enough to be drawn at home. Whilst I cannot but agree that we had been favoured with home draws I felt it was only recompense for the injuries which had ravaged the side since the commencement of the season. Our opponents on this occasion were Cross Keys, a club who could boast of having beaten us more times than we had beaten them – nine to eight in fact. After playing somewhat loosely to begin with and trailing by 10pts. to 9pts., we tightened up and eventually won by 22pts. to 10pts.

We drew Swansea in the semi-final but with the weather interfering it looked as if the fates were against us. The game had had to be postponed and because neither side could agree on a mutually convenient date the Welsh Rugby Union had decided that we had to play mid-week, under floodlights and obviously away from home! To offset this our record against Swansea was good and we had been allocated the home dressing room! Came the night and inspired by the captain the side gave a masterly display under atrocious conditions with Terry Lee reaching a pinnacle of a performance. The encouragement given by our supporters was superb and I only wish the chant of "Cardiff, Cardiff" could be heard more often; I can assure all and sundry that the players appreciated it.

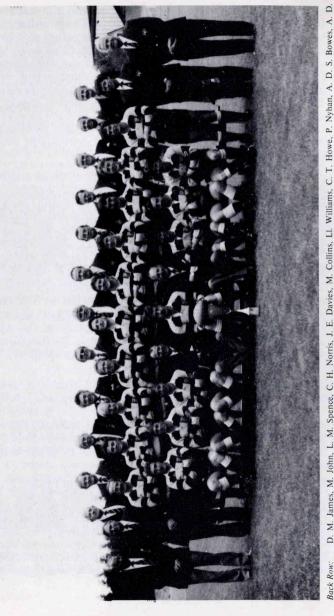
A draw at Newport, a handsome win against Bedford and an almost injury-free side. Came "The Day" and although the game was not the classic that it was expected to be there was no doubt that our tight, workmanlike approach created frustration in the Bridgend ranks with resultant errors. Even so Neil Hutchings scored a glorious try and the build-up to it was superb. At times one could be forgiven for thinking that the "Bridgend Hoodoo" was still with us-even though we had drawn the away dressing room!-but the final score, 14pts. to 6pts., two tries to nil, was a fair reflection of our superiority.

There is no doubt that we will win the Cup again but the first time is always the best and April 11th, 1981 will be remembered as a great day in our history. Well done John Scott and your boys, particularly Robert Lakin who was voted "Man of the Match" by the Welsh Sportswriters Association, although with so many playing well it must have been a close decision.

One week later saw the side reach the heights again and, in an entirely different type of game, defeat the Barbarians by 45pts. to 19pts. Unfortunately the season was not over; because of the W.R.U. Presidents XV versus Wales game the Cup Final, normally played on the last Saturday of the season, had been brought forward and we still had to play postponed matches. These proved to be a disaster particularly at Pontypool.

The Old Players' Re-union did not take place until Friday, 24th April. The attendance was tremendous and that it was an unqualified success and well worth waiting for was in no small measure due to the fact that it was held in the top lounge of the Clubhouse.

The season with its few disappointments and many successes culminated in the holding of a Gala Dinner at the City Hall. The



Davies, M. Collins, Ll. Z. Middle Row

R. Williams, D. Preece. ż Norster, I. Eidman, W. G. Davies, R. A. J. Priday (Hon. Secretary), T. Mogridge, K. Edwards, R.

D.

object was to raise money for the W.R.U. Charitable Trust Fund and what a fitting climax it proved, not only socially but also financially. As far as I can ascertain ladies were invited for only the second time in 104 years; they, the Athletic Club Choir and the St. Albans Band made it a night to remember, as did our guest speakers John Young and Gareth Daniel.

May I take this opportunity to thank all Committee men for the loyalty and support which they gave throughout the season and although it would be invidious of me to mention individuals I feel I must pay special tribute to our Hon. Secretary Alun Priday; I cannot express adequately the debt I owe to them all. To Lynn Williams who has decided to "hang up his boots" after a marvellous forty five years of service as player and committee man, a happy retirement!

My grateful thanks to Messrs. Ken George, Albert Francis and their staff; also to Mrs. Gaynor Parsons and her staff. To Mr. Harold Richards, the Club doctors, the Club physiotherapists and masseurs my thanks for not only helping to keep the players fit but also for restoring them to fitness after a season in which we surely suffered more serious injuries than at any other time. Although I referred to our supporters earlier may I now thank the best and most loval Supporters Club in existence and in particular Ted John and his cohorts: to the St. Alban's Band and their conductor John Williams our sincere thanks.

Full playing record for the Season:

Played 48 Won 32 Lost 13 Drawn 2 Points for 968 Points against 615

W.R.U. Cup:

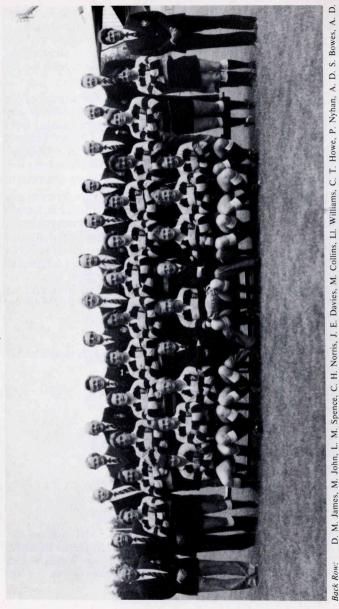
1st Round v. Tonyrefail Won 15-0 2nd Round v. British Steel Won 41-0 3rd Round v. Tredegar Won 22-0 4th Round v. Cross Keys Won 22-10 Semi-final v. Swansea Won 18-7 Final v. Bridgend Won 14-6

Sevens Tournaments:

Middlesex 7's-

1st Round v. Exeter University Won 18-12 2nd Round v. London Welsh Lost 6-22

Congratulations to John Scott, Gareth Davies, Terry Holmes and Alan Phillips on gaining international honours; to David Burcher, Kevin Edwards and Robert Norster for obtaining Welsh squad selection and to Brian Lease for his selection as reserve for the



Priday (Hon. Secretary), M. Hadley, R. Newman. Charles, H. Jones,

England tour. New Barbarians included Alan Phillips and Robert Lakin.

First XV Caps were awarded to:

Kevin Edwards, Steve Evans, Ian Eidmann, Terry Lee, Tony Mogridge, Jeff Whitefoot and Rhys Williams.

Highest number of games:

Jeff Whitefoot (44), Robert Lakin (42), David Burcher (40), Tony Mogridge (36).

Points Scorers: Gareth Davies 264pts., Geraint John 62pts.

Try Scorers: Derek Preece (14), Steve Evans (13), Robert Lakin (12).

Youth Representation: Mark Ring (1).

In ending this report I make no apologies for the amount of space I have given to the Welsh Rugby Union Schweppes Cup. Once again may I pay tribute to John Scott for his leadership, to the team for their response and to the coaches John Ryan and Roger Beard for their dedication. At the time of writing John Scott is in the Argentine with England, whilst our own touring party will shortly be leaving for Zimbabwe. Good luck to them all and remember 11th April, 1981!

> C. D. WILLIAMS. Chairman, Cardiff Rugby Football Club

CARDIFF ATHLETIC XV SEASON 1980/81

Captains: Robert Lakin and Ian Robinson.

Results:

Played 38 Won 27 Lost 10 Drawn 1 Points for 917 Points against 453

At the commencement of the season Robert Lakin, a former captain of our Junior XV and former Youth international, was appointed captain of the Athletic XV. Because of injuries Bob's services were required by the First XV and with his form improving every week he relinquished his appointment just after Christmas. For the remainder of the season the captaincy was entrusted to our oldest serving player Ian Robinson who was capped for Wales in 1974. "Robbo", as he is affectionately – if that's the right expression - known to all, settled in very quickly and brought stability.

Athletic XV Caps awarded to:

Alan Edwards, Mathew Hadley, Geraint John, Mark Rogers, Stephen Stewart, Howard Stone, Wayne Taylor.



O'Donnell, J. Poyner Williams, N. O'Brien, Jury, R. Chilcott. J & Z

Most Appearances: Julian O'Brien (27), Tim Crothers (23), Lawrence O'Brien (22), Mark Rogers (21), Howard Stone (20).

Points Scorers: Julian O'Brien 74pts., David Barry 65pts., Geraint John 64pts.

Try Scorers: Leighton May (11), Wayne Tyler (11), Richard Griffiths (9), Terry Charles (8).

Youth Representation: Peter Goodfellow (3), Gareth Phillips (2), Bob Morgan (1).

In terms of results the playing record was on a par with the previous season. This was quite remarkable since the "Rags", because of injuries to the First XV players, were even more unsettled in their team composition. A fact well illustrated in that one of our club coaches Roger Beard turned out on three occasions, and well did he play.

C. D. WILLIAMS, Chairman, Cardiff Rugby Football Club

CARDIFF YOUTH XV SEASON 1980/81

On 28th March, 1981 at Neath, Cardiff Youth were beaten by Neath Youth 13pts. to 10. Most people will ask why on earth the annual report should begin with a particular result. I will explain immediately by stating the fact that previous to this game Cardiff Youth had chalked up 82 consecutive victories stretching back to season 1978-79. A remarkable record in anybody's book.

In 1979-80 season I had the pleasure of being associated with a squad that proved to be genuine Cambridge blue and black both on and off the field. With seven Welsh Youth internationals in their ranks they broke all sorts of records on their way to a memorable season of 40 victories.

In 1980-81 season almost a new squad of players had the unenviable task of "following that". Our only international cap of the season was Mark Ring, our popular captain. A prolific points scorer, he accounted for 13 tries, 6 drop goals, 36 penalties and 88 conversions, a total of 354 points. Mark was the spearhead of a good all-round team and indeed looks very much like a senior Wales outside-half of the future. Without the individual brilliance of the 1979-80 squad his team demonstrated just how important team spirit is. With good coaching and the atmosphere of being a Cardiff Club

player in close second the ingredients of another successful season became evident.

Of the 45 games played-certainly too many at any level-only one was lost. Neath were successful on that day; they overcame a Cardiff Youth side that were reluctant to their eternal credit to resort to similar "over vigorous" tactics as the Neath side-but I am better qualified than to complain.

During the season ex-Cardiff Youth captain Anthony Bartlett, who enjoyed early success, Joseph Souto, Phil Ford and Kevin Trevett all played in senior Cardiff XVs out of the Cardiff Youth fraternity of 1979-80, a good omen. I mention especially prop Alan Edwards and back row forward Howard Stone of the same vintage as having the potential to make their mark in no uncertain fashion next season.

The Full Record for 1980-81:

Played 45 Won 43 Lost 1 Drawn 1 Points for 1196 Points against 198 Tries for 211 Tries against 21

Highest Try Scorers: Robert Morgan 25, Richard Chilcott 24.

Notable victories were recorded against Bristol home and away, 18-4 and 6-4 respectively. On 13th September Leicester were unlucky at the Arms Park and lost 57pts. to 3 (they have not been beaten since). In two truly classic games, Pontypridd were beaten 10pts. to 9 and 7pts. to 3 followed by Bridgend losing 20pts. to 10 at the Brewery Field and 21pts. to 15 at the Arms Park. In November Swansea were beaten by 56pts. to nil and Llanelli by 16pts. to 10. January and 1981 saw the Spanish National XV suffer by 54pts. to 4, Neath at Sophia Gardens were beaten 33pts. to nil and Newport lost 23-7. In March a delightful match at Nuneaton resulted in a 36pts. to 4 victory for Cardiff and on a hard tour at the end of a long season Worcester were beaten 10-0, Davenport 9-7 and Orrell 12-0.

At Caerphilly on 29th April, 1981 we retained the Welsh Youth Rugby Union Esso K.O. Cup beating our old rivals Newport 18pts. to 3, thus joining the senior XV in wresting the most important trophy in Welsh rugby.

My thanks to Jim O'Donnell, Don Reed and faithful followers for their help and support throughout the season. To stewardess Gaynor Parsons a special thank you and appreciation to Kathy, Vicky and Miss Ann Davies at the office.

Finally may I personally congratulate our coach Peter Davies on

another highly successful season. Surely one defeat in 93 games is something for all of us to think about.

GARY DAVIES, Hon. Secretary, Cardiff R.F.C. Youth

Functions and Trips arranged by the Supporters Club during the year ending 30th April, 1981 included the following:

July 25th:

The occasion of our Player of the Year presentation night, delayed to await the return of the Cardiff players chosen to tour with the Lions in South Africa and Wales 'B' in Canada. The following awards were made: Salvers to the Lions, Tankards to the First and Second fifteen captains, a special trophy to the Youth fifteen to commemorate their invincible season, the Rags Player of the Year Cup to Julian O'Brien, and last but not least, the Player of the Year trophy to John Scott. The usual high standard buffet was provided.

October 3rd:

Film show and buffet, better supported than usual, and well received.

November 12th:

Our second Race Meeting evening attracted a larger and more adventurous crowd than our first, and the result was a most enjoyable evening.

November 21st:

The first leg of our annual Quiz competition with the Aberaman Band Club was played away. Our hosts received us with generous hospitality and proceeded to defeat both our teams.

December 5th:

Our Seventh Annual Dinner Dance was not a complete sell-out, but was generally considered to be our most successful to date.

March 5th:

Once again an eventful Paris trip, with our headquarters at the Hotel Brebant. The adverse result of the game did not spoil our enjoyment, nor indeed did our encounter with a force 8 gale on the return journey.

March 13th:

Our third Race Meeting evening attracted a maximum capacity crowd, and consequently enabled us to make a donation to the

Cardiff Rugby Football Club's gift to the W.R.U. Charitable Trust Fund.

April 23rd:

Our home leg in the Quiz competition with the Aberaman Band Club afforded us the opportunity to repay their hospitality. It also gave us the opportunity to gain revenge, as both our teams triumphed over their opponents.

In addition to the above, trips were made to support Cardiff on most of their away games.

A love spoon carved by Mr. Dave Parry to commemorate the Cardiff v. New Zealand game has been sent to the New Zealand Rugby Museum, and Dave has received a very generous acknowledgment.

RECORD OF RESULTS - SEASON 1980/81

CARDIFF FIRST FIFTEEN

D .	Opponents		H. or Result		or		Score against								
Date				G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pt:
980		20.00	1	1			100				41				
Sept. 3	Glamorgan Wanderers	H	Won	3	1		1		25				5		15
6	Nice	Н	Won	8	5		-		68	2	1		3		25
10	Bristol	A	Lost		2				8	3	1	P 1	2		28
13	Neath	A	Lost		2		2		14	1	2	F	2	11.00	20
17	Penarth	H	Won	2	4		2		34						(
19	Coventry	H	Won	4	2		1		35	1			1		(
24	Maesteg	H	Won	1	1	-	4		22	ж,	-		1	-	
27	Aberavon	A	Lost					-	0	1	3				18
Oct. 1	Bridgend	A	Lost			1	3		12	1	3				18
4	Newport	Н	Won	2			3	111	21	2	1		1		19
8	Pontypridd	A	Lost				1		3	100	2		1		1
11	Northampton	A	Won	1	1	1	2		13	-	1	F	1	1-31	*
18	New Zealand	H	Lost		T.	2	1		9	1	1	1	1		10
25	Harlequins	A	Won	2	4	-	1		31	1			2		13
Nov. 5	Oxford University	Н	Won	3	1		1		25	1	1		1		13
8	Ebbw Vale	A	Draw		1	1	1		10		1		2		10
15	Tonyrefail (Cup)	A	Won	2			1		15						(
22	Bristol	Н	Won	2	2		2		26		1		1		1
28	Moseley	A	Lost	-	1		1		7		2		i		1
Dec. 3	Pontypool	H	Won	2	2	3	i		32	2	-		i		i
6		A	Won	1	2	,	3		23	1			4		1
13	* 1 117 1 1	A	Won	Ιí	4		3		22	i			2		1
17	T 1 111	Н	Won	2	1		2		22	i			1		
20	D 111 0 1/0 1	H	Won	3	5		1		41	1					
26	D	Н	Won	1	1		2	2	16		1				
27		H	Won	1	'		2		12		i	1	1		
	Newbridge	Н	Lost	1.			2		6	1	i		4		2
Jan.1	Bridgend	Н	Won		2	14	3	1	17	1	i		3		1
	Moseley	Н	Won	2	1		2	- 1	22		1		3	- 1	1
12	Tredegar (Cup)	Н	Won	1	2		1		17		1		П		
16	London Welsh	Н	Won	li	3		1		21	1	1		3		1
24	Aberavon	-	1000 0000		3		3		15	1	3		4		2
31	Llanelli	A	Lost	3	1		3		10.50		2		4		2
Feb. 6	Heriots FP	A	Won		2				26	١,	12		1		
11	Neath	H	Won	1	1		1		20.0	1	١,				
14	Bristol	H	Won	1	2		4		26	2	1		١,		1
20	Bective Rangers	H	Won	3	3		2		36		1	1	1		١,
28	Cross Keys (Cup) .	H	Won	2	1		2		22	1	1				1
Mar. 21	Ebbw Vale	H	Won	2	4		1		28		١,		١,	1	
24	Swansea (Cup semi-final)		Won	2	Ι.		2		18		1	1	1		
28	Newport	A	Draw	1	1		1		13		1	3			1
April 4	Bedford	Н	Won	4	4		1		40	1	3		1 ~		1
- 11	Bridgend (Cup Final)		Won		2		2	3	14		1.		2		2
15	Swansea	H	Lost	1	2		1		11	1	2		2		2
18	Barbarians	H	Won	2	6		3		45	2	1	1.	1		1
20	Harlequins	H	Won	2	1		1		19	1	1	1			1
24	Bath	A	Lost		2		1		11	2			2		1
28	Pontypool	A	Lost				1		0	5	4	2			5
30	Côte Basque	A	Lost				2		6	3	2				2
	TOTALS			60	80	8	72		968	39	48	7	1 56		6

W.R.U. Cup -

Opponents				n	Score for							Score against						
	A.	Result	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts.				
1st Round	Tonyrefail		A	Won	2			1		15						0		
2nd Round	British Steel		H	Won	3	5		1		41						0		
3rd Round	Tredegar		H	Won	2	1		2		22						0		
4th Round	Cross Keys		Н	Won	2	1		2		22	1	1				10		
Semi-final	Swansea		A	Won	2			2		18		1			1	7		
Final	Bridgend			Won		2		2		14				2		6		
TOTALS					11	9		10		132	1	2		3		23		

Seven-a-Side Tournaments:

Middlesex Sevens:

Exeter University Won 18-12 London Welsh Lost 6-22

Club Captain: JOHN SCOTT

Vice-Captain: GARETH DAVIES

TOTAL PLAYING RECORD: Played 48, Won 32, Lost 13, Drawn 2.

CARDIFF ATHLETIC XV

Date	Opponents		H.	Result	Score for							Score against					
Date	Opponents		or A.	Result	G.	T.	DG	PG N	1G	Pts.	G.	T.	DG	PG	MG	Pts	
1980	THE PART OF THE PA																
Sept. 3	Llanharan		A	Won	2	2		1		23		1		1		7	
- 6	Llantwit Major		A	Won	2 5	3		2		48		3			. 1	12	
10	Bristol United		H	Won	2	5		2	- 1	38		1		1		1	
16	Treviso		Н	Lost	1	Ĩ		3		15	1	2		î		1	
17	CHSOB		A	Won	4	3	4			36	1	1		î			
20	Coventry Extras		A	Lost	1	1		1		7	2	2		2		2	
27	Cilfynydd		H	Won	4	1		3		37	-	~		3		-	
Oct. 1	Bedwas		A	Won	Ĺ	3				12				1			
4	Newport United		A	Won	2	-		1		15	2			^		1	
11	NHSOB		H	Won	2	3	1	3		36	-	2		1		1	
11	Quins Wanderers		H	Won	6	7	-			64		-		*		1	
15	Treorchy		A	Draw	1	1		2		6				2	114		
25	Pontypool United		H	Won	3	1		1		25				1			
31	London (NZ)		H	Won	2	3		2		30		1	1	3		1	
Nov. 8	Ebbw Vale Athletic		H	Won	4	5		1		47		1	1		4	1	
26	Pontypridd Athletic		A	Lost	1	1		2		10	2		1	1		1	
28	Ynysbwyl		H	Won	3	4		1		37	1		1	2		1	
Dec. 3	Pontypool Athletic	• •	A	Lost	3	4		1		3	2	4		1		3	
6	Swansea Athletic	• •	H	Won	3	1		1		22	1	1		1		1	
13	0 1 11	• •	H	Won	4	1				24	1	1	10				
1981	Senghenydd	• •	п	WOII	4					24	1		14				
Jan. 3	Llandaff North		Н	Won	6	2				44				2			
7 7			2.7	Won	2	2					١,		7	2			
10	Penygraig		A	2000	1					16	1			12			
24	Garndiffaith		A	Lost	4	2	1	2		8	1			3		1	
31	Talywaun		A	Won	4	3	1	2		45	1						
	Neath Athletic		H	Lost	١.	_		2		6	1	1		2	18	1	
Feb. 7	Caerleon		H	Won	1	2		3		23	1	2				1	
14	Bristol United		A	Won	2	2				20	2	1	1	1		1	
20	Pengraig		A	Won	2	1		1		19		1		3		1	
Mar. 4	Pontypridd Athletic		H	Won		1	1	3		16	1			2		1	
28	Newport United		H	Won	3	7		1		49	2	1		-		1	
April 1	Ebbw Vale Athletic		A	Lost	1			6		24	2			5		2	
4	Neath Athletic		A	Won	3	4				34	1						
10	Swansea Athletic		A	Lost		1		1		7	2	2				2	
14	Abercynon		A	Lost						0	1			3		1	
18	Rumney		A	Won	3	2		1		29	2			1		1	
22	Wirralians		A	Won	1	1		2		16	1			1			
23	Caldey		A	Won	1	1		2		16	2				19	1	
28	Pontypool Athletic		H	Lost	1	1				10		1		3		1	
11.5	TOTALS				77	74	3	50		917	33	27	2	47		45	

Captain: ROBERT LAKIN (TEMPORARY), IAN ROBINSON

RECORD FOR SEASON: Played 38, Won 27, Lost 10, Drawn 1.