

# CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR SEASON 1995-96

Little did I think that this season would be a landmark in the history of Rugby Football Union. It has been an exciting and challenging experience for players and administrators of the game.

The announcement of 27th August, 1995, by Vernon Pugh, Chairman of the International Rugby Football Board, stating that the game was to become professional had far reaching implications for us all but we were fortunate in Cardiff to have Gareth Davies, Chief Executive, at the helm at such a crucial stage and his appointment has been one of the major successes of the season. I pay tribute to him, Nathan Roberts, Jackie, Julie, Vicky, Cathy and Debbie, for the professional way they have worked and I thank them most sincerely for their dedication and support throughout the season.

The season started with the introduction of the "Try Bonus System" which ironically prevented us from winning the championship again this year. It maybe as a result of introducing this new system that Cardiff set a new aggregate score of 1513 points and scored a record 210 tries and Steve Ford set another Heineken League record by scoring 21 tries. Congratulations Steve on another superb season. There must be something wrong with the system if a team, who wins the most number of games, fails to win the Championship.

Alex Evans, Coaching Organiser, announced that he would be returning to Australia in December and it was confirmed that Terry Holmes was to be his successor. Alex's contribution to C.R.F.C. was immense and I remember the words I used in one of his many farewell parties. "Cometh the hour, cometh the man." We are extremely grateful to Alex for his contribution over the past 3 years and we wish him and his charming wife, Kay, the best of luck for the future. There is no doubt that he was responsible for turning the fortunes of the Club around while he was here. There will always be a welcome for them both at C.R.F.C.

The appointment of Hemi Taylor, as Captain of the Club, was a popular choice and I congratulate him on his achievements this year. He always led by example both on and off the field and earned the respect of his fellow players, committee members and supporters alike.

We are also honoured and pleased to have Jonathan Humphreys selected as Captain of Wales. Incidentally, Hemi and Jonathan were C.R.F.C. Development Officers at the time of their appointments. We are proud of Jonathan's selection and the manner in which he has led Wales this season. I am sure that he will retain the Captancy for many more years to come. Cardiff are indeed fortunate to have such quality players as current Captains.

One of my first duties as Chairman was to Manage the Pre-season tour to Wexford, unfortunately without Alex Evans, Jonathan Humphreys, Mark Bennett, Simon Hill, Derwyn Jones, Andy Moore and Hemi Taylor, as they had been selected for the Wales tour to South Africa. While at Wexford Andrew Lewis received a telephone call from Alex to invite him to join the South African tour party and I am sure that he will remember that moment for the rest of his life.



Mike Rayer was back in training at the pre-season camp and determined to regain his place in the Cardiff team by Christmas. I pay special tribute to Mike as he has made the most amazing recovery that I have seen in my lifetime and to recover to such an extent that he should have been initially selected for the Wales tour of Australia was miraculous. Well done Mike! Hopefully we will soon see the return of Mike Bennett and Stuart Roy after their injuries.

Early in the season a longstanding tradition came to an end with the abolition of the 'Rags' and I am sure many of the players and supporters missed them very much.

On 28th October, C.R.F.C. again ventured on pastures new by playing Fiji on our own pitch and, in front of a capacity crowd, we won an exciting game 22 pts to 21 pts. There certainly was more atmosphere at the ground and may this new trend continue. Six Cardiff players were later selected to play for Wales against Fiji with Lyndon Mustoe gaining his first Welsh Cap. What a joy it was for us all to see him at last gaining the recognition he deserved.

We embarked on our exciting European Cup trail on 21st November, with a match in Bordeaux against Begles. The hospitality we received there was so fantastic that it set the standard for all other Clubs in the Competition to follow and we are grateful to Begles for setting the scene. We fielded a team of 14 International Players for this encounter which was played in the pouring rain. The atmosphere was equal to any International match and the tension was unbearable. Although we had our chances to win, we came away with a creditable draw, 14 points apiece.

Our next match was at home to Ulster which we won convincingly 46 pts to 6 pts. Begles failed to acquire the number of points needed at Ulster and we were through to the semi-final against Leinster at Lansdowne Road. Ninety supporters, media and Cardiff Committee Members gathered at Rhoose on Saturday morning to catch the flight to Dublin but the icy conditions prevented the plane from leaving the runway and, as a result, they all missed the match — Airport owners included. However the game was played in gale force winds and driving rain and it was a credit to both sides that the standard of play was of the highest order. We managed to win a close encounter by 23 pts to 14 pts and we were through to the final against Toulouse. This was played on 7th January, at the National Stadium and, unfortunately, we lost in the last minute of extra time by 21 pts to 18 pts and the chance of winning the Cup in its inaugural year was lost. I am sure that the experience gained in this year's competition will stand us in good stead for next season's encounters.

Our progress in the SWALEC Cup was disappointing with wins against Oakdale 26 pts to 7 pts, Penarth 62 pts to 6 pts and Swansea 20 pts to 9 pts. Unfortunately, we were unlucky to draw Llanelli away in the next round, a week after the magnificent Welsh victory against France. Our team played below par and eventually went down 10 pts to 11 pts. European matches and Internationals were starting to take their toll and the players looked tired.

In the Heineken League, we were to suffer defeats against our bogey team, Bridgend, both home and away and against our arch rivals Newport. These disappointing displays were to be our downfall and the real reason for us not winning the League again this year. To end second in the Championship was again a creditable performance and the players are to be

congratulated.

Andrew Lewis was the next player to hit the headlines by being selected for his first cap against Italy on January 16th at Cardiff. Other Caps were to follow against England, Scotland and Ireland. With his selection, Cardiff was now able to select an International player in each position. Congratulations Andrew!

I congratulate the following players for being selected to represent Wales at International level this season. Derwyn Jones, Emyr Lewis, Andy Moore, Hemi Taylor, Mark Bennett, Andrew Lewis, Lyndon Mustoe, Simon Hill and Jonathan Humphreys.

At Wales A level, Adrian Davies, Vince Davies, Gareth Jones, Owain Williams, John Wakeford, Simon Hill, Andrew Lewis and Lyndon Mustoe (Rep) were selected. Jamie Ringer, Phil Booth (Rep) and Gareth Jones (Rep) were selected at U21 level.

The following players qualified for their First XV Caps: Andrew Lewis, Lyndon Mustoe, Keith Stewart, and John Wakeford.

Athletic XV Caps were awarded to Steven John and Emyr Lewis.

Unfortunately, our Youth Section could not repeat the magnificent results of the previous season but to their credit many players were selected for 1st XV friendly matches and performed with distinction. I am sure that Terry Holmes will keep an eye on these talented players for the future.

It is rumoured that after 17 years with the Club our great stalwart, Howard Stone, has announced his retirement after giving such invaluable service and pleasure to us all. Howard played his first game for the 'Rags' 1979/80 season and has since played 140 times for the second XV and has appeared for the 1st XV on 275 occasions playing a total of 415 for the Club. He was selected for Wales B, toured Four Countries with Cardiff and played many times for the Barbarians. I believe he is now seeking a coaching role and we wish him the best of luck with his new venture.

Our success on the field reflects the hard work done off the field by all our supporting staff. To Terry Charles, my vice Chairman, and the Executive Committee, John Nelson, Ian Eidman and Mervyn John, and fellow Committee Members who play such a vital role, I thank you for your hard work, loyalty and support. My sincere thanks to our hardworking Fixture Secretary, Peter Manning, who had a very difficult task this season in arranging matches and to Peter Nyhan, our Statistician, for compiling the results.

To Terry Holmes, Anthony Faulkner, Alun Donovan, Ian Bremner, Gwynne Griffiths and Steve Davies, our Senior Coaching Staff, I applaud you for the professional and dedicated way you have worked with the players this season and our success is very much down to your efforts.

My thanks must go to our other coaches who work tirelessly with our Junior Teams, Gareth Jones, Mike Mawn, Hugh Smith, David Williams, Andy Moore and Les Good. Your work is very much appreciated.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the support and guidance I have received from the President, Chairman and Members of the Management Committee together with the Vice Presidents and Patron, Mr. Peter Thomas.

During the early part of the season, we lost the services of our



# CARDIFF R.F.C. 1st XV

SEASON 1995-96

CAPTAIN: Hemi Taylor

PLAYING RECORD:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Tries	For	Against
EUROPEAN CUP	4	2	1	1	2	101	55
HEINEKEN LGE	22	18	1	3	40	867	334
CUP	4	3	-	1	11	118	33
OTHERS	12	10	-	2	26	427	244
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1513</b>	<b>666</b>

HIGHEST POINTS SCORERS:

	European	League	Cup	Others	Total
Adrian Davies	58	166	22	39	285
Chris John	-	87	6	58	151
Steve Ford	-	107	15	10	132
Mike Rayer	-	106	5	15	126
Nigel Walker	-	45	10	30	85
Jonathan Davies	-	16	10	35	61
Simon Hill	-	45	15	-	60
Gareth Jones	-	55	-	5	60
Owain Williams	-	46	-	10	56

HIGHEST TRY SCORERS:

	European	League	Cup	Others	Total
Steve Ford	-	21	3	2	26
Nigel Walker	-	9	2	6	17
Adrian Davies	1	10	1	-	12
Simon Hill	-	9	3	-	12
Gareth Jones	-	11	-	1	12
Mike Rayer	-	8	1	3	12
Mike Hall	2	4	3	2	11
Owain Williams	-	8	-	2	10

HIGHEST NUMBER OF APPEARANCES:

	European	League	Cup	Others	Total
Owain Williams	3	19	3	5	30
Adrian Davies	4	18	2	4	28
Mike Rayer	4	15	2	7	28
Steve Ford	3	17	2	5	27
Mike Hall	4	15	4	3	26
Lyndon Mustoe	4	17	4	1	26
Keith Stewart	-	16	1	9	26
John Wakeford	4	12	4	6	26
Simon Hill	3	18	3	1	25
Hemi Taylor	4	17	4	-	25
Mike Griffiths	-	16	1	7	24
Derwyn Jones	4	15	4	1	24
Andrew Lewis	4	14	3	3	24

HIGHEST CONVERSION SCORERS:

	European	League	Cup	Others	Total
Adrian Davies	7	31	1	12	51
Chris John	-	11	3	17	31
Mike Rayer	-	30	-	-	30

HIGHEST PENALTY GOAL SCORERS:

	European	League	Cup	Others	Total
Adrian Davies	12	18	4	5	39
Chris John	-	15	-	3	18

RECORD DETAILS:

1. The 1,513 points for is a new record aggregate score.
2. The 210 tries for the season is also a new record.
3. Steve Ford's 21 try haul in the Heineken League also sets a new record.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR WALES

(MAY 95 TO APRIL 96):

v. Japan	A. Davies, M. Griffiths, M. Hall, D. Jones, E. Lewis, A. Moore, H. Taylor, S. Roy (rep.)
v. New Zealand	M. Bennett, M. Hall, D. Jones, J. Humphreys, H. Taylor
v. Ireland	A. Davies, M. Griffiths, M. Hall, H. Taylor, J. Humphreys, D. Jones, E. Lewis.
v. South Africa	M. Bennett, S. Hill, J. Humphreys, D. Jones, A. Moore, H. Taylor
v. Fiji	M. Bennett, J. Humphreys, D. Jones, A. Moore, L. Mustoe, H. Taylor
v. Italy	J. Humphreys, D. Jones, A. Lewis, E. Lewis, A. Moore, H. Taylor
v. England	J. Humphreys, D. Jones, A. Lewis, E. Lewis, H. Taylor
v. Scotland	J. Humphreys, D. Jones, A. Lewis, E. Lewis, H. Taylor
v. Ireland	J. Humphreys, D. Jones, A. Lewis, E. Lewis, H. Taylor
v. France	J. Humphreys, D. Jones, E. Lewis, H. Taylor

REPRESENTATIVE APPEARANCES FOR WALES A:

v. France A	S. Hill, A. Lewis, V. Davies
v. Ireland A	S. Hill, A. Davies
v. Scotland	S. Hill, J. Wakeford, O. Williams, A. Davies (rep)
v. Fiji	A. Davies, A. Lewis, L. Mustoe (rep)

U21s INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR WALES:

v. Ireland U21	Gareth Jones, Jamie Ringer, Phil Booth (rep)
v. Scotland U21	Gareth Jones, Jamie Ringer, Phil Booth (rep)
v. New Zealand News	Phil Booth

NEW 1st XV CAPS:

Name	Games
Andrew Lewis	24
Lyndon Mustoe	26
Keith Stewart	26
John Wakeford	26



With Cardiff's involvement in the European Cup this brought a new opportunity for our coach organisers, an away match with Begles. The result was by all accounts a very successful, although a somewhat tiring, trip to the south of France to see our team put up a first class performance and earn a creditable draw. We look forward to the possibility of another such outing and at the time of writing this could be to Toulouse in October.

We had decided to leave December and January free of social events with our members involved with so many other activities outside our little circle. So it was with some disappointment that we found ourselves having to cancel the planned musical event in February due to problems that the Athletic Club were having with local residents regarding noise from the Top Lounge. So it was a long wait to the end of March for our next event — our second Horse Race Night. As usual the proceeds were donated to the Cardiff Youth XV Tour Fund. It was a very good evening but once again there was a poor response from the Youth Team themselves which has been a big disappointment to those involved in the organisation of the event. The Supporters turned up trumps and a good donation found its way into the Youth Team funds.

Our Annual Dinner was held in the Clubhouse on Friday 26th April with a full house present — once again all tickets had been sold weeks in advance. The Club Captain, Hemi Taylor, responded to the Chairman's toast to Cardiff Rugby Football Club. The Guest Speaker this year was Mr. Viv Brooks, a well known figure in the Athletic Club and a big supporter of Cardiff. He entertained those present with various stories of his days in the Police force with particular reference to his early days in Tiger Bay. Once again a really great evening, excellently organised by Mrs. Kath Jones.

Our coach trips throughout the season were very successful and could possibly be the best for quite a number of years. Obviously as a result of performances by the team on the field. Our sincere thanks must go to Alan and Kath for their excellent work in arranging the coaches.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our Chairman and my fellow Officers and Committee, to thank the President of the Athletic Club, Mr. Haydn Wilkins, the Athletic Club's Chief Executive, Mr. Gareth Davies and his office staff, Mr. John Evans, Chairman of Cardiff Rugby Club and his Committee for their cooperation and the support extended to us as a club during the past year.

Similar thanks are due to Mrs. Tina Tew and the Commercial Department and also to the Club Steward, Jeff and his wife Betty, coupled with their bar staff for their regular assistance and support throughout the past year. Finally a big thank you to members and supporters who have attended our functions during the year. We trust you all enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to seeing you at our future events.

For and on behalf of  
Cardiff Rugby Supporters Club.  
HUGH EARWICKER, Secretary

## RECORD OF RESULTS - SEASON 1995/96

### CARDIFF FIRST FIFTEEN

Date		Opponents	H. or A.	Result	Score for					Score against						
					G.	T.	PG	DG	MG	Pts.	G.	T.	PG	DG	MG	Pts.
1995																
Sept.	2	Bridgend (F) .. ..	A	Won	3	3				36	4					28
	9	Pontypridd (HL) .. ..	H	Won	2	2	4			36	2	1	4			31
	16	Neath (HL) .. ..	A	Won	1	2				11		1	1			8
	23	Swansea (HL) .. ..	H	Won	6	1	1			50		2	1			13
	30	Llanelli (HL) .. ..	A	Won	1		3			16			4			12
Oct.	4	Bridgend (HL) .. ..	A	Lost	1		4			19	1	2	4	1		32
	7	Treorchy (HL) .. ..	H	Won	8	1	2			67			1			3
	14	Ebbw Vale (HL) .. ..	A	Won	1		3			16	1		1			10
	18	Penarth (F) .. ..	H	Lost	1		1			10	1			1	1	13
	21	Abertillery (HL) .. ..	A	Won	6	3	1			60		2	2	1		19
Nov.	28	Fiji (F) .. ..	H	Won	1		5			22	1	1	3			21
	5	Aberavon (HL) .. ..	H	Won	6	3				57			3			9
	7	Griqualand West (F)	H	Won	4	2	1			41	1	1	1			15
	10	Cambridge Univ. (F)	H	Won	4					28	1	1	1			15
	18	Newbridge (HL) .. ..	A	Won	2	2	2			30		3	1			18
Dec.	21	Begles (EC) .. ..	A	Drawn		1	3			14		1	3			14
	25	Newport (HL) .. ..	H	Lost			6			18	1		5			22
	28	Ulster (EC) .. ..	H	Won	5	1	2			46			2			6
	2	Bridgend (HL) .. ..	H	Lost	1	1	2			18	1		5			22
	16	Oakdale (SC) .. ..	H	Won	3	1				26						7
	23	Neath (HL) .. ..	H	Won	2	1	3			28		1	1			8
	30	Leinster (EC) .. ..	A	Won	2		1	2		23		1	3			14
1996																
Jan.	7	Toulouse (EC) .. ..	N.S.	Lost			6			18	1	1	3			21
	13	Treorchy (F) .. ..	A	Won	3	3				36		2	3			19
	20	Penarth (SC) .. ..	A	Won	2	9	1			62			2			6
Feb.	3	London Welsh (F) .. ..	A	Won	6	5				67	1	1	1			15
	10	Newbridge (F) .. ..	H	Won	5	2				45	1	1	1			15
	13	Swansea (F) .. ..	H	Won	1	5				32	1		1			10
	20	Swansea (SC) .. ..	A	Won		1	3	2		20			3			9
Mar.	9	Ebbw Vale (HL) .. ..	H	Won	1		3			16	1		1	1		13
	12	Bristol (F) .. ..	A	Lost	1	2	1			20	1	3				22
	23	Llanelli (SC) .. ..	A	Lost	1		1			10		1	2			11
	30	Abertillery (HL) .. ..	H	Won	10	5				95		5				25
Apr.	6	Barbarians (F) .. ..	H	Won	7					49	4	3				43
	8	Aberavon (HL) .. ..	A	Won	3	4				41		2	1			13
	13	Swansea (HL) .. ..	A	Won	7	2				59						0
	20	Newbridge (HL) .. ..	H	Won	9	3				78	1					7
May	24	Pontypool (F) .. ..	H	Won	3	4				41	4					28
	27	Newport (HL) .. ..	A	Won	2	3				29	1		3	1		19
	2	Treorchy (HL) .. ..	A	Won	3	2				31	1		1			10
	10	Pontypridd (HL) .. ..	A	Drawn	3		2			27	2	2	1			27
	14	Llanelli (HL) .. ..	H	Won	5	6				65	1		2			13

TOTALS:- FOR:- G: 131; T: 79; PG: 63; DG: 4; Pts. 1,513  
AGAINST:- G: 35; T: 38; PG: 72; DG: 5; Pts. 666