

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year our squad of players was strengthened by the arrival of the following players: Greg Kacala, Tony Rees, Steve Williams, John Tait, Bob Ross, Spencer John, Steve Wake, Gareth Thomas, Liam Botham, and Paul Williams. Despite tremendous commitment and effort by players, coaches, and administrators we were not rewarded with any silverware, although there were many pleasing results along the way.

Unfortunately this season will be remembered for Gwyn Jones's injury on 13th. December against Swansea. It was delightful to see Gwyn as a spectator at our last game of the season against Llanelli. We all wish him the best as his progress continues. This last game also saw Hemi Taylor returning from a prolonged back injury to play an outstanding part to secure victory on that day. We also wish Nigel Walker, Craig Morgan and Gareth Thomas a speedy recovery.

Playing teams on a home and away basis gave the European Cup Competition greater credibility and we managed to reach the quarter final stage where we lost narrowly to the eventual winners Bath by 32pts - 21pts. One of the highlights of the season was our exciting win at Harlequins 31pts - 32pts with tries scored by Robert Howley, Phil Booth and Steve Williams. This game demonstrates the strength of Cardiff's followers, making their presence felt with wonderful vocal support.

Reaching the final of the Challenge Trophy was particularly pleasing but Pontypridd gained the home advantage with the toss of a coin. This was a significant factor and eventually we lost 15pts - 10pts.

Our progress in the SWALEC Cup competition ended at Ebbw Vale on 28th February losing 24pts - 9pts in the sixth round after convincingly beating them in the league the previous Saturday 38pts - 18pts. This reversal typified our inconsistent form throughout the Season.

Our fragmented fixture list and the Five Nations Championship matches saw our supporters with only one meaningful game between Saturday 31st January and Saturday 18th April at the Arms Park. This situation must not be allowed to continue if the club is to retain its faithful band of supporters and be commercially viable.

Our disputes with the WRU have been ongoing throughout the season and have placed added pressure on all concerned. I hope that these will end in a satisfactory conclusion very soon.



I would like to thank Alex Evans, Terry Holmes, Anthony Faulkner, Geraint John and Brian Lease for their loyalty, hard work and magnificent contribution to the team throughout the season and congratulate them on their achievements. Likewise Howard Stone, Les Goode, David Williams and Andy Moore for their work with the Youth and Junior Cardiff Teams.

The Medical support has been magnificent again this season and I thank our team of Doctors Jim Naysmith, Keith Young, Huw Evans, Richard Evans. Professor John Williams and Surgeons Brian Rees, John Fairclough, Roger Evans and Mike Fardy. Optician Frank Maloney (Spec Savers) and Dentist Geoff Price. Physiotherapists and Sports Trainers Jane James, Maggie Burcher Jonathan Evans, Brian Hughes, Chris Towers and Wayne Mortimar for their contributions.

Our Captain Jonathan Humphreys has led the team with pride and honour both on and off the field while his own performance has been truly outstanding. Well done!

We congratulate Robert Howley on his selection as captain of Wales and the following players who have represented their country - Andrew Lewis, Lyndon Mustoe, Jonathan Humphreys, Leigh Davies, Robert Howley, Lee Jarvis, David Young, Gareth Thomas and Nigel Walker.

First XV Caps were awarded to Greg Kacala, Jamie Ringer, John Tait, Steve Williams and David Young.

Lee Jarvis once again excelled by beating his own record of 408 points with this season's total of 492 points. The record number of tries scored was topped with a new total of 219 tries this season. Also the total number of points scored (1623) is a new record, which is amazing considering the number of matches played. Well done !

We wish Robert Howley and Leigh Davies a successful and enjoyable tour to South Africa.

Congratulations are extended to our Youth XV for reaching the final of the Welsh Cup Competition which was won by Newport and for achieving a very successful season.

I would like to thank Brian Walker and his staff Mike, Ray, Royston and Mike for maintaining the ground in such remarkable condition.

Our Bar Manager Jeff Ellerman, son Darren and staff continue to give valuable service providing the necessary rugby atmosphere for members and visitors

The Supporters Club under the Chairmanship of Ken Jones and his committee members, has once again given excellent vocal support and I thank them for their loyalty and company. I would also like to thank Ken Jones, his wife Cath, Roger Williams and Brian Bennett for the hard work organising the lottery which continues to bring in much needed income.

Our new souvenir shop is flourishing and our thanks go to Shirley Withers



and staff Leigh Parfitt, Sam McDonagh and David Bois.

Our programme, edited so expertly by Duncan Gardner maintains its high standard of presentation and content. Regular contributions from J E. Malcolm Thomas, David Hayward and John Scott have made interesting and informative reading.

Our under 12's have enjoyed a very successful season under the guidance of Robert Newman and Colin Hancock has organised the Junior Blue and Blacks with great enthusiasm. Our thanks also goes to our announcer Paul Jones (Red Dragon Radio).

To Gareth Davies Chief Executive and personal assistants Jackie Flynn, Vicky Holley and Team Manager Peter Manning, Patrick Gore, Finance Director, Justin Todd and Claire Robertson of the Accounts Department, Katie Burrows Events Co-ordinator, Tina Tew, Cathy Selio, Ryan Norton, and Debbie Griffiths of Sales and Marketing I extend my grateful thanks.

Special thanks must go to the following sponsors who provide much needed income and support to the club and long may it continue.

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Various sponsors on advertising boards and within match programme

Days of Swansea - car sponsorship



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'The Pack' new venture - 29 companies to date.

Metropolitan Club - leisure facilities

Gilbert Balls

Finally, I would like to thank the Management Committee of the Cardiff Athletic Club, under the Chairmanship of Mervyn Warfield, the vice Presidents especially our statistician Peter Nyhan the Rugby Committee of Terry Charles, John Nelson, Ian Eidman, Malcolm Childs, Peter Goodfellow, Robert Lakin, Robert Newman, Jim O'Donnell, Mervyn John, Ian Robinson, Tony Williams, Brian Bennett, Steve Davies and Steve Blackmore. The Youth Committee of Jim O'Donnell Chairman, Mike Ryan, Neil O'Donnell, Billy Wood, Colin Davies and Weldon Davies for their support and valuable service throughout the season

In conclusion, may I thank you all for the support, guidance and friendship you have give me during the year.

Diolch yn fawr

John Evans  
Chairman

### Season 1997-98

#### Overall Record

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
European Cup (EC)	8	5	3	-	229	198
Welsh League (WL)	14	10	3	1	469	297
Welsh Cup (WC)	3	2	1	-	153	44
Challenge Trophy (CT)	8	6	2	-	293	182
Friendly (F)	12	8	4	-	479	326
TOTAL	45	31	13	1	1623	1047

#### Scores for

	<b>Tries</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pens</b>	<b>Drop.gs</b>	<b>Points</b>
EC	21	17	29	1	229
WL	59	39	32	-	469
WC	22	11	7	-	153
CT	42	25	11	-	293
F	75	43	5	1	479
TOTAL	219	135	84	2	1623



### Scores Against

	<b>Tries</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pens</b>	<b>Drop.gs</b>	<b>Points</b>
EC	21	9	24	1	198
WL	29	22	34	2	297
WC	3	1	9	-	44
CT	21	7	21	-	182
F	50	29	6	-	326
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1047</b>

### Highest number of appearances

	<b>EC</b>	<b>WL</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lee Jarvis	8	14	3	7	2	34
Derwyn Jones	8	11	3	6	6	34
Greg Kacala	7	12	2	5	3	29
Lyndon Mustoe	5	9	3	7	5	29
Jamie Ringer	3	11	2	3	10	29
John Tait	5	11	3	5	5	29
Emyr Lewis	6	8	1	6	6	27
Justin Thomas	3	11	3	6	4	27
Jonathan Humphreys	8	10	3	2	2	25

### New Caps

Gregory Kacala, Jamie Ringer, John Tait, Steve Williams, David Young

### Record Achievements

Lee Jarvis Beat his own record of last season's 408 pts, with this season's total of 492 pts

The 219 tries for this season is the best ever.

1623 points for season highest ever.

### Highest Point Scorers

	<b>EC</b>	<b>WL</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lee Jarvis	134	205	31	108	14	492
Bob Ross	-	-	7	25	39	71
Justin Thomas	10	24	21	10	5	70
Leigh Davies	20	35	-	-	5	60
Gareth Thomas	-	40	5	15	-	60
Jason Hewlett	-	-	5	-	51	56
Gareth Jones	5	5	-	15	30	55
Craig Morgan	-	10	15	20	10	55
Liam Botham	-	15	-	15	24	54

### Highest Try Scorers

	<b>EC</b>	<b>WL</b>	<b>WC</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lee Jarvis	2	7	-	7	-	16
Leigh Davies	4	7	-	-	1	12
Gareth Thomas	-	8	1	3	-	12
Justin Thomas	2	4	3	2	1	12
Gareth Jones	1	1	-	3	6	11
Craig Morgan	-	2	3	4	2	11



### Highest Conversion Scorers

	EC	WL	WC	CT	F	TOTAL
Lee Jarvis	17	37	5	23	4	86
Bob Ross	-	-	1	2	11	14

### Highest Penalty Scorers

	EC	WL	WC	CT	F	TOTAL
Lee Jarvis	29	32	7	9	2	79
Bob Ross	-	-	-	2	3	5

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

### WALES versus

USA(1)	L. Davies	L. Mustoe	G. Jones	SCOTLAND	G. Thomas	R. Howley	A. Lewis
USA(2)	L. Davies	L. Mustoe	G. Jones		D. Young	L. Davies	L. Mustoe
CANADA	L. Davies	L. Mustoe	G. Jones		J. Humphreys		
ROMANIA	L. Davies	L. Mustoe	G. Jones	ITALY	G. Thomas	R. Howley	A. Lewis
	L. Jarvis				D. Young	L. Davies	L. Mustoe
FRANCE	L. Davies	G. Thomas	R. Howley		J. Humphreys		
	A. Lewis	D. Young	L. Mustoe	N. ZEALAND	N. Walker	R. Howley	D. Young
	J. Humphreys				G. Jones	L. Davies	S. Williams
IRELAND	L. Davies	G. Thomas	R. Howley		S. John	J. Humphreys	
	A. Lewis	D. Young	L. Mustoe	TONGA	L. Davies	N. Walker	S. John
	J. Humphreys				G. Jones	R. Howley	S. Williams
ENGLAND	N. Walker	R. Howley	A. Lewis		J. Humphreys		
	D. Young	L. Davies	L. Mustoe				
	J. Humphreys						

### WALES A versus

FRANCE A	J. Thomas	S. Hill	P. Young
IRELAND A	J. Thomas		
SCOTLAND A	J. Thomas		
ENGLAND A	J. Thomas		
N. ZEALAND A	L. Jarvis		

### WALES U21 versus

FRANCE	L. Jarvis
IRELAND	L. Jarvis
SCOTLAND	L. Jarvis
ENGLAND	L. Jarvis

## CARDIFF R.F.C. YOUTH REPORT SEASON 1997-1998

Whilst the team itself can be forgiven for concentrating its thoughts on the loss of the Welsh Cup in the Final to Newport, overall, it had a very good season, losing four and drawing one of the twenty nine games played.

The season kicked off with the usual flurry of games in September. The first five games saw the team account for Maesteg, Pembroke, Northampton, Cwmbran and Coventry, three resulting in very close encounters, 22-20, 26-21 and 5-3. The end of the month saw the away trip to Leicester where they played a curtain raiser before the Leicester -v- Leinster European Cup game on the main pitch. This again was a very close game, the only score being a penalty, late on, to Leicester.



Immediately after, the team encountered a Pontypridd Youth team in full flow and Pontypridd scored a resounding victory by 41 points to nil. After this salutary lesson, the team was not to lose again until the end of January at Northampton.

During this period, they played and beat the first year students of U.W.I.C., Saracens, Mountain Ash and Cheltenham together with Dunvant and Leicester at home before the end of the year.

The game at Llanelli on 6th December was played at Stradey Park and was one of four games played there that afternoon. It proved a very entertaining match, the scores being level at the end, 10 points each.

Cheltenham was the first trip of 1998 and the side showed what they could do, winning by 43 points to nil. At the end of January, the team was well beaten by an efficient, competent Northampton Colts side and it was only two tries by wing, Ian McIntyre late on in the game which brought some respectability to the final 35-20 scoreline.

During February, a new name appeared on our fixture list, Reading, and the team came home from there with a comfortable 38-18 victory.

The double over Coventry was recorded at Coundon Road before the team played its annual fixture against Crawshays Youth. This game, for reasons beyond the control of the Youth committee could not take place as it should have done, on the Arms Park but thanks to the generosity and good offices of Cardiff High School Old Boys, took place at their ground. As things turned out it was a superb game and would have done justice to the once traditional fixture on that Saturday between Cardiff and the Barbarians. It resulted in a 21 - 12 win to Cardiff.

Hopefully, despite the mal-administration and late transfer of the game, it is hoped that Crawshays will once again agree to play Cardiff at this level next year when Cardiff Youth celebrates its 50th birthday.

Hot on the heels of the Easter Saturday Crawshays game came the annual tour, this year to Cornwall. Based in St. Ives, two games had been organised against a Cornish County team and a combined Hayle/St. Ives team.

The Cornish County team proved formidable opposition for the Youth and in a game which switched from end to end, Cardiff eventually held on to win an exciting game by 29-26. At this game it was good to renew acquaintances with two 'old boys' now plying their trade with Penzance and Newlyn, Martyn Madden and Chris Mills, both of whom turned up to watch the game.

The second tour game proved a more comfortable win because, by the time we played that game, it appeared that half of Cornwall had emigrated to Twickenham for the English County Championship Final. However, the hospitality was superb and the pasties delicious.

At this stage, perhaps I can record the thanks of the Youth committee to Clive



Polkinghorne, father of Ross, one of the Youth team's former players for his assistance in the organisation of the tour.

I recorded at the outset, the team's disappointment at the loss in the Youth Cup Final. The team however, had a good run in getting to the Gnoll for the Final. The Road to the Gnoll started back in November with a First round game against Fleur de Lys. The team played well to record a 36-11 victory which took them to the second round and a home tie against Narberth.

This game was played on the 27th December, causing the cancellation of our annual fixture on Boxing Day at Llandaff. Again, a comfortable win by 29-5 at the Harlequins Ground which led to a home draw against Neath Athletic Colts. This proved a nail biter in which the team showed all its grit and determination to win by a single point, 8-7. The Quarter Final was perhaps the most exciting game of the season. Played under lights at Cardiff Arms Park, the team took on Pontypridd, who had beaten them comprehensively in their three previous encounters. With both teams showing flair and expertise at handling, coupled with dogged defence, Cardiff won a place in the semi-finals, again by one point, 19-18. This victory set up a semi-final against Risca, which was played at their ground. Again, the boys recorded a victory by 26-11 and took them to the final against Newport.

That Newport deserved their win on the night is not denied but others have commented about the quality of refereeing in that game. It is the policy of the Welsh Youth Union to appoint District referees for the Final. Whilst no one decries the magnificent job they do week in and week out, surely games of this calibre, normally played as a showpiece on the National Stadium between players of this quality deserve the highest quality referees.

The team played in two Seven-a-side Tournaments, the first at Pontyclun, played on 13th April in weather conditions which varied during the Tournament from sunshine to snow when they finished runners up to Saracens, but perhaps the quote of the season was from one of the team which won the Cardiff & District Sevens Tournament at Rumney, beating the home team in the Final by 27 - 0. "Its nice to get a winners' medal for a change". And it was for them.

Overall, a good season, one in which the Western Mail placed them third in the top ten Welsh Youth teams but given their overall record and the quality of the teams on their fixture list, they could arguably have come second, or even joint second with Pontypridd.

In terms of International honours this year, only Ian Higgins was capped at Youth level, but having gained his cap, he was injured and unable to travel to France for the F.I.R.A. Tournament. At Welsh Senior Schools level, caps went to Rhodri Williams, David Brown, Saul Nelson, Greg Woods, Jason Samson and Phil Wheeler.

The under 16's and under 17's were again set challenging fixtures by their mentors, Dai Williams, Andy Moore and Les Good. The two former fitting in these responsibilities with



their duties as W.R.U referees and all three with their teaching responsibilities. And the throughput of talent from these sides continues with several under 17's players playing games in the Youth team. Our thanks to them for all their efforts.

James Roach proved an excellent captain, leading by example and playing, in every game. Howard Stone, in his first full year as Coach worked wonders in that sphere, one in which he was ably assisted by the backs coach, Gerry Roberts. Thanks are due, as usual, to the leader of the physio team, Billy Woods and to Alan Thomas who has joined the team this year.

The committee's thanks go to Jeff Ellerman and all his staff, to Brian Walker and his ground staff, to John and his staff at the Diamond Ground and to the Office staff. As ever, we are indebted to Ken Jones and the Supporters Club, and to the Chief Executive, coaching staff, Supporters and First team players who all made the journey down to the Gnoll to support the team in the Final.

My own personal thanks are due to my committee under chairman, Jim O'Donnell, Neil O'Donnell, the Fixture Secretary and the other member of that ilk, Tim O'Donnell, who manfully stepped in to referee the Crawshays game when the appointed referee failed to show up. A team Secretary's lot would indeed be a hard one without a little female assistance from the Office staff and in particular from Vicky, ever present throughout the season. To her, my personal thanks for her continued help, support and for her organisational abilities

Thanks, finally to all those boys who played for the team this year. Welcome back next year to those who are eligible and good luck in everything they do to those whose age takes them into senior rugby and onwards to the wide world beyond.

MICHAEL RYAN HON. YOUTH TEAM SECRETARY.

**CARDIFF R.F.C. YOUTH XV  
SEASON 1997/98**

**YOUTH CAPTAIN:** JAMES ROACH

**YOUTH TOP SCORERS:** Mathew MAUNDER, 149 points, David BROWN, 80, Ian McINTYRE 75, Ian HIGGINS, 65

**YOUTH RECORD:**

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts for	Pts agst
<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>379</b>