

## CARDIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB JULY 2000 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cardiff Rugby Club decided to give its full support to the Scottish/Welsh League this season and we made no secret of the fact that we preferred a British League. In terms of regular rugby at the Arms Park the structured season was, to say the least, fragmented. Cardiff gave permission for the field to be used for heavy plant access in order for the Millennium Stadium to be completed in time for the World Cup. Returfing the pitch was therefore necessary and our first home game was played on November 19th against Harlequins in the European Cup.

The Limited Company recruited aggressively during the closed season and we were fortunate to gain the services of Neil Jenkins, Mike Voyle, Craig Quinell, Martyn Williams, Jamie Robinson, Nick Walne, Kevin Ellis, Brett Barrett, Grant Esterhuizen, Rhys Williams, Gary Powell, Martin Morgan, Ryan Powell and Phil Wheeler. With nine of our players involved with World Cup Squad the start of the season was left to our other Squad Members to carry the flag for the Club. It is a credit to Mike Rayer (Vice Captain) and his young Squad that they only lost two games during this period. The great thing about their efforts was that the groundwork was done to launch a major assault on the silverware on offer, placing us in a favourable position to win the Scottish/Welsh League. David Young (Captain) and his fellow International players returned to continue the excellent work and to the delight of everyone at the Club, we managed to win the League with matches to spare. Well done,

Losing to Llanelli in the Quarter Final of the European Cup was a big disappointment as was losing our three year ground record to Swansea in the last match of the season.

We congratulate David Young on his appointment as Captain of Wales and the other eighteen members of the Squad who represented the Country at various levels during the season and wish them well for the future.

Rhys Williams deserves special praise for his inclusion in the Wales team against Ireland and his future looks assured. Simon Hill, Liam Botham and Leigh Davies are leaving for pastures new and we wish them well. Simon is currently enjoying his Testimonial Year after giving 10 years of valuable service to the Club.

Rhys Williams, Martyn Williams and Steve Moore are to be congratulated on gaining their 1st XV Caps, Spencer John on the most number of appearances (28) and Paul Burke as highest points scorer with 277 points.

Our Youth XV have excelled this year with silverware being plentiful. Mike Ryan (Youth Secretary) lists their achievements in his Youth Report and the Committee, under the Chairmanship of Jim O'Donnell, must be congratulated on their achievements. Their success is largely due to the excellent coaching of Howard Stone and Gerry Roberts and their back up team of voluntary helpers.

1st XV Management, Robert Norster (Team Manager), Lynn Howells (Coach), Geraint John (Asst. Coach), Huw Wiltshire (Fitness Coach), Mrs. Jane James and Hywel Griffiths (Physiotherapists), Alun Carter (National Analyst), Wayne Mortimer (Sports Masseur), Doctors, Roger Evans, Prof. John Williams, Mr. John Fairclough, Mr. Mike Fardy, Dr. Richard Evans, Dr. Jim Naysmith, Optician, Frank Maloney (Spec Savers) and Dentist, Geoff Price have made valuable contributions to the team and I thank them most sincerely.

The Board of Directors, under the Chairmanship of Peter Thomas, continues to promote and develop CRFC as a Premier Club in Europe and are ably supported by the Management Committee of Cardiff Athletic Club. The Rugby Committee has worked hard again this year and I thank them for their loyalty and support.

After a long association with the Club both as a player and Committee-man, the sudden death of John Nelson (Hon. Secretary) was a great shock to us all. He was a most loyal and devoted servant of the Rugby Club and always emphasised the need to preserve high standards, both on and off the field. He is sadly missed by us all. It was at John Nelson's funeral that news reached us of the death of another great man of Cardiff and a close friend of the Club, Rex Willis. His whole life was an adventure and he too will be missed by those who knew him.

The administrative staff, headed by David Jenkins (Chief Operating Officer) have worked tirelessly throughout the season and have been professional in their approach throughout. Brian Walker and his groundstaff have had a very difficult season due to the pitch replacement and we wish them well with their efforts over the closed season. Vicky Holley and Jackie Flynn have continued to work closely with the Rugby Committee Members and my grateful thanks to them. Jeff Ellerman and Bar Staff continue to give valuable service and provide a homely and humorous atmosphere at the Clubhouse.

Special thanks must go to all our sponsors and Suite Holders who have provided much needed income and support to the Club and long may it continue.

Lottery income is also an important source of income and I would like to thank Mr. Ken Jones, wife, Kath, Roger Williams and Brian Bennett for their contribution over many years.

Shirley Withers and staff continue to run the Souvenir Shop with pride, giving a warm welcome to all visitors.

The Supporters Club, under the Chairmanship of Ken Jones and his loyal Committee Members has once again showed great enthusiasm and commitment to the Team as demonstrated by the coach loads that journeyed to Harlequins for the European Cup match.

Alan Evans (Press/Media Officer) has again produced promotional literature of the highest quality and the rugby programme is a fine example of his work.

The Capital Rugby Initiative Scheme is progressing excellently, thanks to the efforts of John Huw Williams (Capital Rugby Director) and his staff for spreading the gospel of rugby football among the schools in Cardiff.

Good news for next season is that Cardiff RFC will operate Youth and Under 21 teams and supporters will be able to view matches on a weekly basis at the Arms Park. We can therefore look forward to the future with confidence.

Finally, may I wish you the best of luck for next season and thank you all for your loyalty and support during the year.

Diolch yn fawr.  
John Evans

**C.R.F.C. RESULTS SEASON 1999 - 2000**

DATE	TEAMS	H / A	RESULTS	
4-Sep	Newport	A	Lost 13-18	(W)
11-Sep	Bridgend	A	Draw 24-24	(W)
18-Sep	Neath	A	Won 21-20	(W)
25-Sep	Llanelli	A	Lost 18-60	(W)
10-Oct	Caerphilly	A	Won 32-20	(W)
15-Oct	Edinburgh	A	Won 53-12	(W)
22-Oct	Glasgow	A	Won 36-25	(W)
29-Oct	E. Vale	A	Won 22-17	(W)
13-Nov	Swansea	A	Won 34-25	(W)
19-Nov	Harlequins	H	Draw 32-32	(E)
27-Nov	Montferrand	A	Lost 13-46	(E)
4-Dec	Newport	H	Won 26-22	(W)
11-Dec	Treviso	H	Won 23-16	(E)
18-Dec	Treviso	A	Won 40-16	(E)
23-Dec	Pontypridd	H	Won 41-10	(W)
28-Dec	Bridgend	H	Won 43-10	(W)
8-Jan	Montferrand	H	Won 30-5	(E)
16-Jan	Harlequins	A	Won 30-26	(E)
22-Jan	Rumney	A	Won 71-17	(C)
12-Feb	Pontypridd	A	Won 22-17	(W)
26-Feb	Newport	A	Lost 13-22	(C)
11-Mar	Caerphilly	H	Won 71-15	(W)
25-Mar	Dunvant	H	Won 116-0	(W)
8-Apr	Edinburgh	H	Won 51-32	(W)
15-Apr	Llanelli	A	Lost 22-3	(E)
21-Apr	Glasgow	H	Won 42-21	(W)
29-Apr	E.Vale	H	Won 48-34	(W)
2-May	Neath	H	Won 52-27	(W)
6-May	Dunvant	A	Won 36-23	(W)
10-May	Llanelli	H	Won 38-31	(W)
13-May	Swansea	H	Lost 40-41	(W)

(W) - Welsh / Scottish League

(E) - European League

(C) - Welsh Cup

**CARDIFF : APPEARANCES 1999 - 2000**

Player	APPEARANCES			SCORING				
	Starts	Rep	Total	T	Con	PG	DG	Point Total
Spencer John	25	3	28	1				5
Liam Botham	22	5	27	10	2	5		69
Mike Rayer	18	7	25	5				25
Emyr Lewis	21	3	24	2				10
Owain Williams	17	7	24	4				20
Rhys Williams	20	1	21	10				50
Andrew Lewis	19	2	21					-
Martyn Williams	20	1	21	4				20
Steve Moore	14	6	20	3				15
Jonathan Humphreys	18	2	20					-
Gareth Thomas	19	0	19	11				55
Simon Hill	14	4	18	13				65
Steve Williams	16	2	18	3				15
Nick Walne	17	1	18	12				60
Mike Voyle	13	5	18	1				5
Jamie Robinson	12	5	17	6				30
Robert Howley	16	1	17	9				45
Gregori Kacala	13	3	16					-
Gary Powell	8	8	16	1				5
Paul Burke	15	1	16	3	59	47	1	277
Damien Geraghty	8	7	15	1				5
Leigh Davies	15	0	15	2				10
Neil Jenkins	14	1	15	2	40	44	2	228
Ryan Powell	9	5	14	3				15
John Tait	11	3	14					-
Dan Baugh	11	3	14					-
Craig Morgan	10	1	11	14				70
Craig Quinnell	7	3	10					-
David Young	9	1	10	1				5
Kevin Ellis	6	3	9	1				5
Brett Barrett	7	1	8					-