

**CARDIFF RFC CLUB
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
END OF SEASON REPORT 2018 / 19**

Cardiff Blues

Cardiff Blues had a mixed season on the playing front, which was defined by the first and last three games of the season.

Ultimately, the Blues narrowly missed out on not only the Guinness PRO14 play-offs but also a place in the top tier European Champions Cup. Losing those first three games, all by one score and in the last minutes, was particularly damaging, however they still had a chance of qualifying going into the final weeks of the season. Defeats to the Ospreys and Connacht, where an incorrect refereeing decision was made, proved particularly costly.

Despite this there were plenty of positives that can be built upon, with a new coaching group and an attractive, free-flowing style of rugby really developing. Seven of the games lost were by a score or less, which demonstrates the very fine margins.

Alun Jones became the new Chairman, replacing Peter Thomas, who has generously relinquished a large portion of his loans off the Blues balance sheet. Martyn Ryan & Paul Bailey have also done the same and we wish Paul all our very best in his recuperation.

Sir Gareth Edwards has resigned from his position on the board, which has been followed by Paul Bailey's decision to leave.

A special mention must be made of Mr John Smart, who passed away during the season. He was one of the original board members of Cardiff RFC & Cardiff Blues, his financial contribution and devotion to Cardiff Rugby should never be forgotten.

With the exception of Gareth Anscombe and Rhys Carré, the Blues managed to retain some 20 players and have strengthened the squad with the acquisition of Hallam Amos, Josh Adams, Will Boyde and Jason Tovey.

Season Memberships and match-day attendances were up season-on-season and 2019-20 memberships are once again tracking ahead of target.

Cardiff RFC

Cardiff RFC enjoyed one of its best seasons in a long while, winning the Welsh Cup beating Merthyr 25-19, despite being 12-0 down in the early stages. Tries by Tom Daley, Edd Howley & Ben Thomas with two conversions and two penalty kicks by the ever reliable Gareth Thompson sealed the victory. The final twist of the game with Merthyr pushing for the win resulted in Ed Howley catching a deep penalty kick to the corner and punching the ball close to the opponent's ten metre line, sinking fifteen Merthyr hearts.

Also Cardiff RFC finished runners up in the Principality Premiership league to Merthyr, winning 22 of 30 games losing 7 and 1 draw. CRFC were in the hunt all

season but possibly with the Cup and league demands it proved a bridge too far to claim the double. There were so many notable victories, such as the Aberavon win at Talbot Athletic Ground, the televised game at The Wern to defeat Merthyr, or my personal favourite, the demolition of Ebbw Vale at Cardiff Arms Park, especially the first 40 minutes.

Positive BBC coverage of the Premiership games throughout the season certainly raised the profile of the League. It is anticipated that this will remain for next season. The obvious question will then be, what is the purpose of the league and how can it improve? Unfortunately with the advent of Regional A sides, this potentially dilutes our team. Rest assured our duty to Cardiff RFC is always at the forefront and we will endeavour to raise such standards that an A side is not necessary in today's game.

I would like to think this is just the beginning of something special. We are ambitious and we want to build a strong, sustainable club as we move towards our 150th anniversary in 2026.

We are working more closely than ever with the Blues and I think we are finally developing a better relationship built on mutual understanding, joint benefit and respect. As an example two full time ex under 20 Internationals, namely James Rati & Callum Bradbury will be at our disposal.

As reported last year, Steve Law had secured a Cardiff squad independently from the Blues, which challenged all teams this season, next season will see a similar approach by the Blue & Blacks. Steve has met the Blues regularly when securing next year's squad and the quality available is very encouraging, namely Brynley Toms, Ollie Drake, Evan Yardley, Nathan Hudd, Alex Everett, James Thomas, Tom Habberfield, Ben Williams, Leon Andrews, Joseph Scrivens, Barney Nightingale & Sam Beard have all signed recently.

The premiership in season 2019/20 will be fought out by twelve teams, with only one team being relegated. Even though there is a reduction of fixtures, there will be a cross border competition with Scotland's Super Six held at the end of the season to compensate.

The Caps Presentation & Hall Of Fame Dinner held at The Exchange hotel formerly known as The Coal Exchange was the highlight off the field, with many awards being given by Cardiff Former Players to this seasons recipients. The night was superbly hosted by Cardiff RFC Fan & Award winning Journalist Carolyn Hitt. Terry Holmes was our Guest of Honour, who welcomed inductee Steve Ford to the Hall Of Fame.

Congratulations on the following players receiving their caps, namely Martin Roberts, Zach O'Driscoll, Joe Gatt, Thomas Davies, Tom Daley, Morgan Allen, Sam Pailor, Steffan Jones, Kieran Martin, Kieron Brown, Mathew Powell, Edd Howley & Ben Thomas

Special recognition must go to Ben Thomas who was named Most Promising Premiership player of the year

Gareth Thompson was top point's scorer with 317 points a gain of seventy five from his last years total. Edd Howley was top try scorer with 19 tries followed closely by Will Rees Hole on 17.

The player with most appearances was Martin Roberts, who played in 35 games, we wish him well with his future plans. The player of the year was awarded to Joey Tomlinson, who was outstanding all year and we wish him well in Canada. The Players Player of the year was awarded to Zach O'Driscoll, who was inspirational in this year's premiership & Cup competitions.

The Chairman's Award went to Steve Law who is developing a strong culture, raising standards on and off the field

Many thanks to our head coach, Steve Law and his coaching team, Llyr Lane, Gethin Jenkins, Rhys Thomas, James Dixon and Our Team manager, Iestyn Williams, for their efforts in what has been a very positive year.

Dyfri Owen and his team of physiotherapists make a continued contribution to the well being of the players on & off the pitch. Our thanks also to our dedicated team of doctors.

Many thanks to Abbie Gibbins for her ability to assist CRFC in all matters especially the 142nd Cap Presentation & Hall of Fame.

Also to Jamie Muir, Rhiannon Loxton for their contribution on pre-planning & match days when the new security measures have proved to be challenging.

Our Licensee Jason Chapman & his bar staff have always shown support, whether training nights or match days, plus Karl Kruger Williams who liaises with sponsors and members on match days.

May I also thank Mike Salt and Spiro and his team for their attention to the needs of the players and the post match snacks for the Trophy Room

Head grounds man Matt Jones continues to maintain our well utilised artificial playing surface to a high standard, but also his unwavering support during our games either home or away.

May I thank committee members for their contributions this past Season:

Chris Collins for organising all our junior teams playing tag/touch at our home games.

Mark Wakeham for leading our Commercial working group meetings.

John Huw Williams for attending East District Meetings.

Clive Davies for his work and reporting on the the premiership meetings.

Jill Parker, who has led the Social media working party and her tremendous efforts for the Cap Presentation.

Ian Tabor & daughter Ellie for match day PA, our ever improving website and production of quality match day programme.

Ian Davies tremendous work on all media duties including a huge amount of work on the new website, especially his contribution to the Caps Presentation & Hall of Fame Awards.

David Morgan for his organisation of our ball boys & girls at each home game.

Dave Perkins & Steve Parker selling our programmes on match day.

Hugh Campbell who has sold merchandise on our behalf.

Simon Down our vice chairman & Blues Director, who has chaired the Heritage Working party, which has grown in volunteers but also the quality of its exhibits.

Bob Newman for his efforts on the creation of a junior section, with much needed help next season,
we hope we can finally have our under 6/7's playing at our home games.

To all our Working Party members, who have joined this past season, we hope you can continue with your superb efforts.

Our Photographer, Viv Jones has also tirelessly worked, capturing all the memories every player & supporter will enjoy.

Hope you all enjoy next season and Cardiff Rugby continues to challenge itself and grow to its full potential.

Thank You

Chris Norman

Chairman, Cardiff RFC

Chris Norman
CHAIRMAN, Cardiff RFC

CARDIFF RFC APPEARANCE 2018 - 2019

TOTAL			START	REP
35	ROBERTS	MARTIN	29	6
34	O'DRISCOLL	ZAC	31	3
34	THOMPSON	GARETH	28	6
33	GATT	JOE	31	2
33	DAVIES	THOMAS	30	3
33	LLOYD	PETER	27	6
32	DALEY	TOM	20	12
31	TOMLINSON	JOE	27	4
30	ALLEN	MORGAN	24	6
30	PAILOR	SAM	18	12
28	JONES	STEFFAN	13	15
27	JENKINS	IAN	6	21
25	REES-HOLE	WILL	20	5
24	MARTIN	KEIRON	16	8
24	MURPHY	JAMES	12	12
23	BROWN	KEIRON	6	17
22	POWELL	MATTHEW	20	2
22	HOWLEY	ED	18	4
19	THOMAS	BEN	17	2
17	AP MYRDDIN	LLWYARCH	12	5
15	LLEWELLYN	MAX	12	3
14	YOUNG	FRASER	2	12
13	JONES	ADAM	10	3
13	GIBSON	SCOTT	2	11
10	BRADBURY	CALLUM	10	
10	CROCKER	LUKE	6	4
10	DAVIES	IOAN	6	4
10	DAVIES-KING	WILL	4	6
9	PITMAN	RORY	7	2
9	GRIFFITHS	NICK	4	5
9	DAVIES	ROSS		9
9	RUKHADZE	RAMAZ		9
8	DOWN	JAMES	8	
8	NORMANDALE	MILES	8	
8	MURPHY	BEN	6	2
7	WILLIAMS	TOM	7	
7	BOTHAM	JAMES	5	2
6	GRIFFITHS	MORGAN	5	1
6	COCKWELL	ALED	3	3
6	CARRE	RHYS	2	4
5	LEWIS-HUGHES	SHANE	4	1
5	BIDGOOD	AARON	1	4
4	COOK	MACAULEY	4	
4	FISH	DAN	3	1
4	MYHILL	KIRBY	3	1
4	ROBERTS	JACK	3	1

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CARDIFF RFC APPEARANCE 2018 - 2019 (cont)

TOTAL			START	REP
4	JONES	OWEN	1	3
4	LEWIS	ETHAN	1	3
3	JIWA-WAJI	AMIR	3	
3	LEWIS	CAMERON	3	
3	SMITH	NATHAN	1	2
3	COURT	ADAM		3
3	HEWLETT	ZAC		3
3	HUSH	NATHAN		3
2	DAVIES	BLEDDYN	2	
2	JAMES	TOM	2	
2	REES	ALED	2	
2	THYER	BRADLEY	2	
2	BROOKS	JACK	1	1
2	JONES	LEWIS	1	1
2	LEWIS	CHRIS	1	1
2	PRITCHARD	ROSS		2
2	REED	ELLIS		2
2	WOOD	JONNY		2
1	ASSIRATTI	KIERON	1	
1	BEAL	JAMES	1	
1	REES	JORDAN	1	
1	SMITH	DAFYDD	1	
1	THORNTON	RORY	1	
1	AP MYRDDIN	OWAIN		1
1	BENNETT	SION		1
1	BRATCHER	MICHAEL		1
1	CHILCOTT	JACOB		1
1	COX	ANTHONY		1
1	GRIFFITHS	TUDOR		1
1	HUGHES	TOMOS WYN		1
1	JAMES	CALLUN		1
1	ROBERTS	GARETH		1
1	SUMMERS	SHAUN		1
1	TOMS	BYRNLEY		1
1	WHATTON	MAX		1
832	RGF 1404		555	277
	AWARDED CAP			

CARDIFF RFC PLAYING RECORD 2018 - 2019

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT	GL	TR	PG	DG	PTS	GL	TR	PG	DG	PTS
18/08/2018	OLD ALBANIANS (F)	H	WON	6				42		1	1		8
25/08/2018	TATA STEEL (F)	A	WON	6	3			59	1	3			22
01/09/2018	MERTHYR	H	LOST			6		18	2	1	1		24
08/09/2018	LLANDOVERY	A	LOST			1		3	1	1	2		20
15/09/2018	NEWPORT	H	WON	3	1	1		29	3		2		27
22/09/2018	CARMARTHEN QUINS	A	LOST	1		2		13	1		4		19
29/09/2018	BARGOED	H	WON	4	2	1		43	3				21
06/10/2018	CROSS KEYS	H	WON	4	1	1		36	2	3	2		35
12/10/2018	BEDWAS	A	WON			3		16	1		1		10
20/10/2018	LLANELLI	H	WON	6	1	1		52	4	1	2		41
27/10/2018	ABERAVON	A	WON	4	1	2		39	1	1			12
09/11/2018	RGC 1404	H	WON	2	1	2		25	2	1			19
16/11/2018	BRIDGEND	A	WON	3		5		36					0
23/11/2018	NEATH	A	WON	7	2			59	1	2			17
30/11/2018	SWANSEA	H	WON	3		1		24		1			5
08/12/2018	EBBW VALE	A	LOST	2		2		20	2	1		1	22
14/12/2018	MERTHYR	A	WON	3	2	1		34	3	1			28
22/12/2018	LLANDOVERY	H	DREW	3	1	2		32	3	1	1	1	32
01/01/2019	PONTYPRIDD	H	WON	4		2		34	1	1	1		15
05/01/2019	TATA STEEL (CUP)	A	WON	9	2			73	4	3			43
12/01/2019	NEWPORT	A	WON	5		1		38	2	3	1		32
18/01/2019	CARMARTHEN QUINS	H	WON	3	1	4		40	1		3		16
26/01/2019	RGC 1404 (CUP)	A	WON	2	2	1		27	1	1	1		15
08/02/2019	CROSS KEYS	A	WON	3				21	1	1	2		18
15/02/2019	BEDWAS	H	WON	5				35	1	2			17
03/03/2019	LLANELLI	A	WON		1	6		23		2	3		19
08/03/2019	ABERAVON	H	WON	2		4		26		4			20
23/03/2019	BEDWAS (CUP)	H	WON	5	1	1		43	1	1			12
29/03/2019	BRIDGEND	H	WON	3	3	1		39	3		3		30
06/04/2019	LLANDOVERY (CUP)	Gnoll	WON	2	3	2		35	2		1		17
13/04/2019	SWANSEA	A	LOST	2		1		17	1	2	1		20
19/04/2019	PONTYPRIDD	A	LOST	1	2			19	3	1			28
28/04/2019	MERTHYR (CUP)	PS	WON	2	1	2		25	2	1			19
04/05/2019	EBBW VALE	H	WON	10	1			75	2		1		17
08/05/2019	NEATH	H	WON	7	5			74	1				7
11/05/2019	BARGOED	A	WON	6	1			47	3	1			26
18/05/2019	RGC 1404	A	LOST	2	2			24	9				63
				130	41	56	0	1295	68	41	33	2	796

(F) FRIENDLY PLAYED 2 WON 2 DREW 0 LOST 0	12	3						101	1	4	1		30
(CUP) PLAYED 5 WON 5 DREW 0 LOST 0	20	9	6					203	10	6	2		106
LEAGUE PLAYED 30 WON 22 DREW 1 LOST 7	98	29	50					991	57	31	30	2	660
TOTAL PLAYED 37 WON 29 DREW 1 LOST 7	130	41	56					1295	68	41	33	2	796
1 PEN TRY 7PTS													

CARDIFF RFC POINTS 2018 - 2019

		TR	PG	CV	DG	PTS
THOMPSON	GARETH	7	34	90		317
JONES	STEFFAN	1	20	38		141
HOWLEY	ED	19	2	2		105
REES-HOLE	WILL	17				85
ALLEN	MORGAN	14				70
TOMLINSON	JOE	11				55
THOMAS	BEN FH	10				50
GATT	JOE	9				45
PENALTY TRY		6				42
POWELL	MATTHEW	7				35
AP MYRDDIN	LLYWARCH	6				30
DALEY	TOM	6				30
COCKWELL	ALED	5				25
JENKINS	IAN	5				25
ROBERTS	MARTIN	5				25
WILLIAMS	TOM	4				20
FISH	DAN	3				15
GRIFFITHS	MORGAN	3				15
JONES	ADAM	3				15
LLEWELLYN	MAX	3				15
CROCKER	LUKE	2				10
DAVIES	IOAN	2				10
JIWA-WAJI	AMIR	2				10
JONES	LEWIS	2				10
MYHILL	KIRBY	2				10
BEAL	JAMES	1				5
BRATCHER	MICHAEL	1				5
BROWN	KEIRON	1				5
CARRE	RHYS	1				5
COOK	MACAULEY	1				5
COX	ANTHONY	1				5
DAVIES	THOMAS	1				5
HEWLETT	ZAC	1				5
JAMES	CALLUN	1				5
LEWIS	CHRIS	1				5
MURPHY	JAMES	1				5
O'DRISCOLL	ZAC	1				5
PAILOR	SAM	1				5
PITMAN	RORY	1				5
PRITCHARD	ROSS	1				5
ROBERTS	JACK	1				5
SMITH	NATHAN	1				5
		171	56	130		1295

CARDIFF BLUES APPEARANCES 2018 - 2019 (cont)

TOTAL			START	REP
2	BLACKER	DANE		2
2	DAVIES	IOAN		2
1	BRADBURY	CALLUM	1	
1	LLEWELLYN	MAX	1	
1	MURPHY	BEN	1	
1	REES	MATTHEW	1	
1	ALLEN	MORGAN		1
1	DAVIES	IOAN RHYS		1
1	DAVIES-KING	WILL		1
1	DEVINE	CAI		1
1	JENKINS	GETHIN		1
1	JONES	BEN		1
1	LLOYD	PETER		1
1	NORMANDEALE	MILES		1
1	ROBERTS	MARTIN		1
1	THOMAS	BEN		1
686	OSPREYS	450	236	

CARDIFF BLUES APPEARANCES 2018 - 2019

TOTAL			START	REP
28	ROBINSON	OLLY	21	7
26	WILLIAMS	LLOYD	16	10
24	TURNBULL	JOSH	24	
24	EARLE	GEORGE	17	7
23	LEE-LO	REYNOLD	22	1
23	MORGAN	MATTHEW	16	7
23	SMITH	GARYN	10	13
22	HALAHOLO	WILLIS	20	2
22	WILLIAMS	NICK	19	3
22	THORNTON	RORY	16	6
20	GILL	RHYS	16	4
19	DACEY	KRISTIAN	18	1
19	LANE	OWEN	18	1
19	HARRIES	JASON	16	3
19	THYER	BRADLEY	11	8
19	WILLIAMS	TOMOS	11	8
18	DAVIES	SEBASTIAN	16	2
18	EVANS	JARROD	14	4
18	LEWIS	DILLON	10	8
18	ANDREWS	SCOTT	7	11
17	ANSCOMBE	GARETH	16	1
17	SUMMERHILL	ALD	14	3
16	LEWIS	ETHAN	4	12
15	ARHIP	DMITRI	11	4
15	MILLARD	HARRI	9	6
15	CARRE	RHYS	3	12
12	NAVIDI	JOSH	11	1
12	SHINGLER	STEVE	6	6
12	COOK	MACAULEY	3	9
12	MYHILL	KIRBY	3	9
11	LEWIS-HUGHES	SHANE	6	5
11	BELCHER	LIAM	4	7
10	FISH	DAN	7	3
9	JONES	LEWIS	3	6
8	ASSIRATTI	KIERON	2	6
7	JENKINS	ELLIS	7	
7	MANOA	SAMU	3	4
7	DOWN	JAMES	2	5
6	SCULLY	BLAINE	6	
5	WILLIAMS	TOM	2	3
5	BOTHAM	JAMES	1	4
5	DOMACHOWSKI	COREY		5
3	JAMES	TOM	2	1
3	LAWRENCE	ALUN	1	2
2	BENNETT	SION	1	1
2	LEWIS	CAMERON	1	1

Continued Overleaf

CARDIFF BLUES PLAYING RECORD 2018 - 2019

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	RESULT	GL	TR	PG	DG	PTS	GL	TR	PG	DG	PTS
11/08/2018	LEICESTER (F)	H	LOST	1	1	1		15	2		1		17
18/08/2018	EXETER (F)	A	LOST	1		1		10	4	1	1		38
31/08/2018	LEINSTER	H	LOST	3	1	2		32	2	2	3		33
08/09/2018	TREVISIO	A	LOST		1	6		25	3		2		27
15/09/2018	ZEBRE	A	LOST	3		1		24	3	1			26
21/09/2018	MUNSTER	H	WON	4		3		37	1		2		13
28/09/2018	CHEETAHS	H	WON	3		1		24	3				21
06/10/2018	DRAGONS	A	WON	1	2	2		23	1	1	1		15
14/10/2018	LYON (E)	A	WON	3		3		30	1	1	3		21
21/10/2018	GLASGOW (E)	H	LOST	1	1			12	3	1	1		29
27/10/2018	CHEETAHS	A	LOST	1		1		10	3				21
04/11/2018	ZEBRE	H	WON	3	2	2		37					0
06/11/2018	URUGUAY (F)	H	WON	4	3			45	3				21
23/11/2018	GLASGOW	A	LOST	1	1	1		15	5	1			40
01/12/2018	ULSTER	A	LOST	1	1			12	1		3		16
09/12/2018	SARACENS (E)	A	LOST	2	1	2		25	5	2	2		51
16/12/2018	SARACENS (E)	H	LOST	2				14	2		4		26
21/12/2018	DRAGONS	H	WON	1		4		19	1		2	1	16
29/12/2018	SCARLETS	A	WON	4		2		34		1			5
05/01/2019	OSPREYS	A	LOST		1	2		11	2		1	1	20
13/01/2019	GLASGOW (E)	A	LOST	2	2			24	4	1			33
19/01/2019	LYON (E)	H	WON	4	1			33	1	1			14
26/01/2019	CONNACHT	H	WON		1	1		8	1				7
16/02/2019	GLASGOW	H	LOST	3	2	1		34	5		1		38
23/02/2019	EDINBURGH	A	WON	2	1			19	2		1		17
02/03/2019	SOUTHERN KINGS	H	WON	3	1			26	2	1			19
22/03/2019	SCARLETS	H	WON	5		2		41	1	2			17
05/04/2019	MUNSTER	A	LOST	3				21	6		1		45
13/04/2019	CONNACHT	A	LOST	2	1	1		22	3	1	1		29
27/04/2019	OSPREYS	H	LOST	2		3		23	2		4		26
				65	24	42	0	705	72	17	34	2	701

(F) FRIENDLY PLAYED 3 WON 1 DREW 0 LOST 2	6	4	2		70	9	1	2		76
(E) EUROPE PLAYED 6 WON 2 DREW 0 LOST 4	14	5	5		138	16	6	10		174
LEAGUE PLAYED 21 WON 10 DREW 0 LOST 11	45	15	35		497	47	10	22	2	451
TOTAL PLAYED 30 WON 13 DREW 0 LOST 17	65	24	42		705	72	17	34	2	701
PENALTY TRY = 7 POINTS										

CARDIFF BLUES POINTS RECORD 2018 - 2019

		TR	PG	CV	DG	PTS
ANSCOMBE	GARETH	4	29	40		187
EVANS	JARROD	1	8	16		61
LANE	OWEN	11				55
SUMMERHILL	ALED	10				50
LEE-LO	REYNOLD	9				45
HARRIES	JASON	7				35
SHINGLER	STEVE	1	5	5		30
ROBINSON	OLLY	5				25
WILLIAMS	TOMOS	5				25
DACEY	KRISTIAN	4				20
MORGAN	MATTHEW	2		4		18
TURNBULL	JOSH	3				15
WILLIAMS	LLOYD	3				15
WILLIAMS	NICK	3				15
FISH	DAN	2				10
MILLARD	HARRI	2				10
PENALTY TRY		2				14
SMITH	GARYN	2				10
BLACKER	DANE	1				5
DAVIES	IOAN	1				5
GILL	RHYS	1				5
HALAHOLO	WILLIS	1				5
JONES	LEWIS	1				5
LAWRENCE	ALUN	1				5
LEWIS	ETHAN	1				5
LLEWELLYN	MAX	1				5
MANOA	SAMU	1				5
MYHILL	KIRBY	1				5
NAVIDI	JOSH	1				5
SCULLY	BLAINE	1				5
WILLIAMS	TOM	1				5