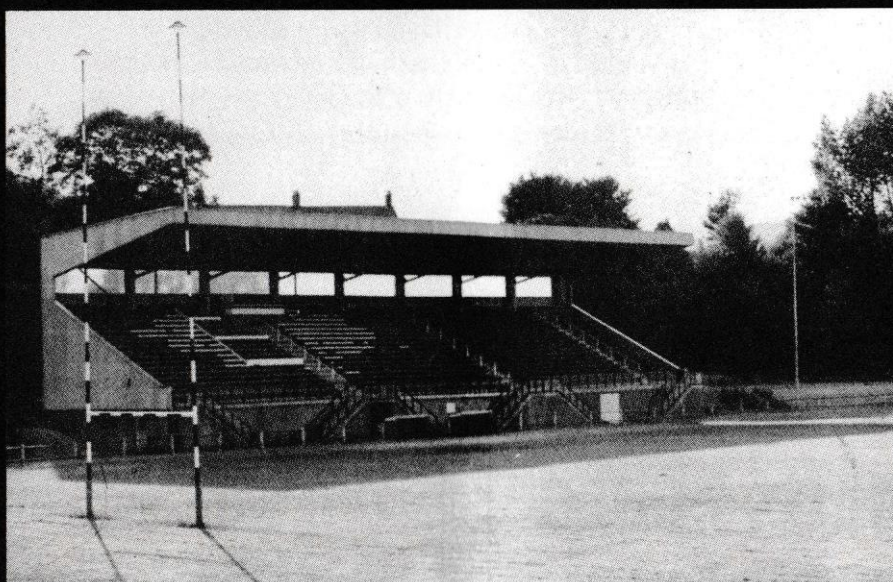




PONTYPRIDD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Pontypridd v Gloucester

ON SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 1982

AT SARDIS ROAD, PONTYPRIDD KICK OFF 3.00p.m.

Programme 20p

Nº 415

CLUB NOTES

It is always a great pleasure to welcome the Gloucester club to Sardis Road, and today's encounter will be particularly enthralling, since Gloucester have lost their first two Saturday games, and therefore will be anxious to record a success today. Of course, they are the joint holders (together with Moseley) of the John Player K.O. Cup, and certainly, since the inception of this competition, they have tended to dominate the Cup scene. Whenever we visit their beautiful ground at Gloucester, we are always met with the most sincere of welcomes, so it is particularly pleasant to have the opportunity to repay a little of the kindness we have always received at their hands.

Gloucester have a habit of turning out one great player after another, and as soon as one famous name leaves the scene, another seems to pop up to take his place. Of course, they hold the central position in an area of very intense rugby activity, and Gloucester have long since made it plain that they are the natural recipients of all outstanding local talent. We ourselves are rapidly learning the same lesson, and when we consider all the rugby talent that is developed in the Rhondda Valley, just to take one instance, it is obviously in our interests to take a leaf out of Gloucester's book and make Sardis Road the natural bedding-down place of all good players who are looking for first-class rugby.

Obviously, we shall have to be at our very best to defeat today's visitors, and Wednesday night's win at the Ground of Glamorgan Wanderers will do us no harm at all. Many of our supporters thought we did not play particularly well, yet we came away with a win - by 13 points to 12 - against opponents who, after all, beat Cardiff on their own ground in the first game of the season.

Our selectors are showing a very bold approach, and this season they have not hesitated to include youngsters of obvious talent in the first team. We all applaud this, yet at the same time we must realise that we cannot both have our cake and eat it. We cannot expect to blood young players in the first team, and at the same time expect them to romp away with games against the level of opposition such as we encounter. It takes at least a few games for newcomers - however talented - to get the feel of what is a new experience for them. As other Clubs have constantly found out, if we want continued success, we must plan far ahead, and show patience and understanding in the meantime.

In this early season period, when the new Coaches are evaluating everyone who is available to the Club, it is a pleasure to record how well the Athletic XV are doing. Admittedly fielding very strong teams, they are so far unbeaten after five games, scoring 151 points against 36. They have beaten Barry (25-7), Llantrisant (35-7), Taffs Well (18-0), Ebbw Vale (38-15), and Porthcawl (35-9), and one is not surprised that Athletic Secretary Jeff Jones is very proud of them. By contrast the Youth XV - normally accepting victory as a matter of course - have sustained losses in each of their three games, but Coaches Roger Jennings and Gwyn Williams are confident that they have the nucleus of a very good side, and that the side will shortly start winning their usual ration of games.

Don't forget to support the special game next Wednesday night (K.O. 7.00p.m.) against Combined Services, which is, of course, an "all pay" match. Your contributions will be paid direct to the South Atlantic Fund, and the Club confidently expects a good turn-out from the townsfolk of Pontypridd.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

May we welcome Gloucester on behalf of the Supporters to Sardis Road and look forward to a good game. I wish to correct an omission from the earlier programmes, and welcome our new coaches for the Club and wish them every success for the forthcoming season. There is still room on the bus for our visit to Neath a week today. Please give your support to the team and book your seat after the match at the Shop. Let us once again return to the days when as "Tommy David" once said it was great to play away with our supporters as there are so many of them at these games it's almost like playing at home.

COME ON SUPPORTERS — SUPPORT!

J. E. Jones

Rod's Chit Chat

SWEETNESS EX STRENGTH

The fact that Gloucester have lost their two Saturday matches to date - against Swansea and Coventry - must be bad news for us. For a start, it means that this redoubtable West-Country team will be less than anxious to make it three in a row, and their determination will be even more evident than it usually is. There is nothing like a defeat or two to sting Gloucester rugby men to the quick, and their usual remedy is to strike back with telling effect. In these matters, in fact, they behave and think exactly like ourselves and our Welsh brethren, and I have often thought that Gloucester should be invited to become honorary members of the Whitbread Merit Table or the Western Mail Championship. They would take to it like ducks to water, because firstly, they like to win, and secondly, they don't like to lose. Much further to the East, around the effete Home Counties, the emphasis is directed toward having a jolly good game, with the actual result being more or less an afterthought. Those of you who know Gloucester all realise at once that they will have no part in this heresy. Yet this certainly does not presume that Gloucester cannot play attractive rugby, or that they are anything but honourable and gracious losers. To put it all in a nutshell, they are one of the game's giants, and it is a privilege as well as a pleasure to test our mettle against them. They usually carry along a load of supporters with them, and a vociferous crowd they are too, almost - perhaps not quite - as one-eyed as we are. As well as the intriguing prospect of a good game on the field, there should be a fascinating battle of wits on the terraces!

TORONTO FAIR

From Gloucester to Pontypridd is, I suspect, a mere stone's throw compared with the distance our recent visitors Toronto Welsh had to travel to play us. I am delighted to be able to assure you that they enjoyed their visit to Pontypridd - and indeed the entire tour - even more than they anticipated they would. Their greatest thrill was quite simply the fact that they were in Wales - 'the heart of rugby', as they maintained. They took a particular delight in examining the Club's voluminous pictorial record of its history, from the modern, glossy, coloured team photographs to the ancient artistically-posed groups frowning severely at them from yellowing parchment. To them, they were a potted history of the Club, a testament to the 100-plus years of rugby played continuously in this particular corner of Wales. They were not too disappointed at their playing record of three rather heavy defeats, especially

after everyone had pointed out to them that a tour itinerary which saw games against Neath, Maesteg, and Pontypridd within ten days would be asking a bit much of any team. Courteous and friendly to a man - and woman, for their tour was graced by the presence of quite a few ladies - they conveyed to us the impression that they were the perfect ambassadors for their great country. Their visit means we can add Canada to the list of countries that have sent teams to play us here at Sardis Road, a list which now encompasses just about all the rugby-playing world, excepting South Africa. Even a Zambian team has been met, not on this ground true, but at Ynysangharad Park. I can't remember a team from the United States, but the Japanese tourists trained here, though they did not actually play a game. Speaking of the United States, we have, of courses, enjoyed the sight of an American Football match at Sardis Road, when the Cup Final of the American Forces in Europe was played here during our Centenary year. We have not, of course, had a French side here, and I hope I am not letting any cats out of Graham Gittins bag when I mention that we may just possibly see Beziers, the French crack side, playing here in the near future. A full house that day, I fancy!

MOST WORTHY CAUSE

Talking of a full house, it would be very nice to see a good 'gate' turn up at Sardis Road for next Wednesday's match against Combined Services, for all the proceeds will go towards the South Atlantic Fund. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that unhappy affair a few months ago, the sheer professionalism and the tremendous bravery of our lads earned our unstinting and ever lasting admiration. Sadly, many lives were lost, we in Pontypridd suffered our share of heartbreaking tidings. It is pitifully inadequate, but the only way we can show our gratitude is by donating a few bob towards the fund, and we can do that on Wednesday and see a good game of football in the bargain by turning up at Sardis Road in good time - for we don't want to miss the musical selection and marching of the military band, do we? The Services have entered enthusiastically into their role, and have responded to our initiative so willingly that we would dearly like to see the Fund well recompensed.

R.T.

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15 GARETH LLEWELLYN	FULL BACK
14 ALAN ROSE	RIGHT WING
13 MIKE EDWARDS	RIGHT CENTRE
12 JEFF HAZZARD	LEFT CENTRE
11 ANDY CARTWRIGHT	LEFT WING
10 M. HODGKINSON	OUTSIDE HALF
9 BOB DYER	SCRUM HALF
1 NEIL WILDING	PROP
2 MIKE ALEXANDER (Cap)	HOOKER
3 RAY LOTT	PROP
4 LYN DAVIES	LOCK
5 STEVE STEWART	LOCK
6 RICHARD COLLINS	FLANKER
7 NEIL THOMAS	FLANKER
8 GARY JONES	No.8

Replacements:
Steve Cook, Bledwyn Davies

Referee: ALUN RICHARDS (CALDICOT)

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Gloucester

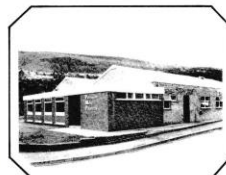
15 G. THOMAS	15
R. MOGG	14
P. TAYLOR	13
S. PARSLÖE	12
N. PRICE	11
M. HAMLING	10
W. HALL	9
P. BLAKEWAY	1
S. MILLS (Capt.)	2
R. PASCALL	3
S. BOYCE	4
A. TURTON	5
J. BENNETT	6
P. WOOD	7
M. TEAGUE	8

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