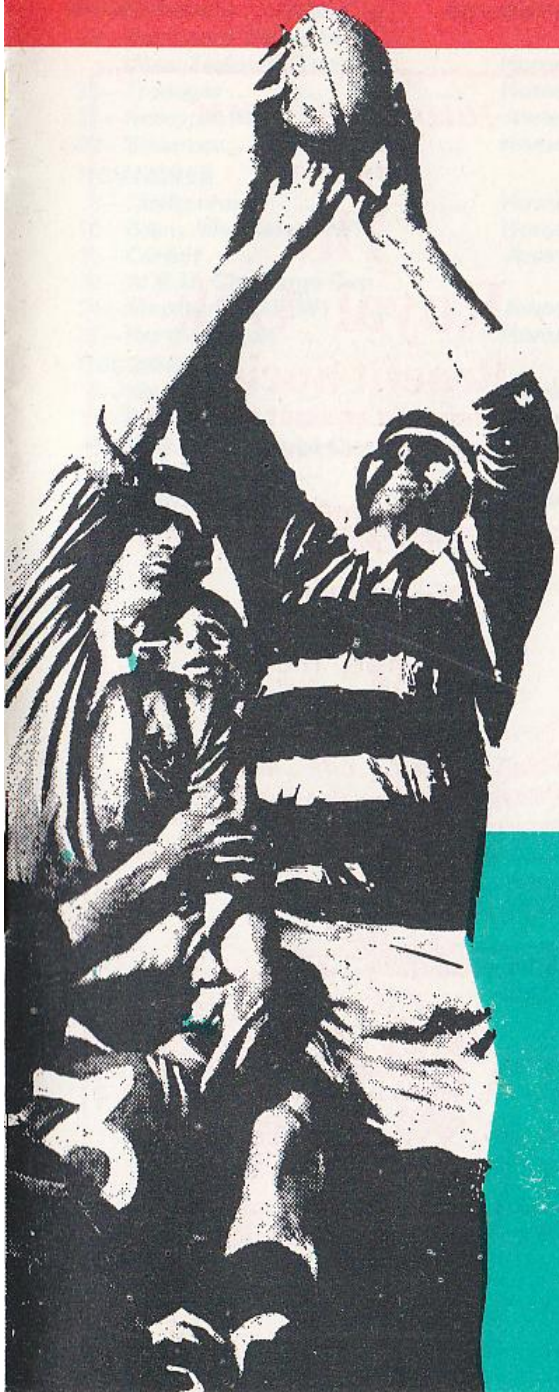


Ebbw Vale Rugby Football Club

Season '76/77



Ebbw Vale

v.

Gloucester

**Wednesday,
6th October,
1976**

K.O. 7.00 p.m.

Official Programme **10p**

Ebbw Vale

Gloucester

Full Back

Mostyn Richards	15	R. Corriea
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Three Quarters

Russell Cole	14	R. Clewes
Arthur Lewis	13	R. Mogg
Alan Tovey	12	D. Pointon
Neil Collins	11	P. Williams

Half Backs

Gary Lawrence	10	C. Williams
Steve Lewis	9	P. Kingston

Forwards

John Short	1	G. Seargeant
Gerwyn Williams	2	F. Reed
Gareth Howls (Capt.)	3	M. Burton
Tony Holvey	4	J. Orwin
Michel Van-der-Loos	5	S. Boyle
Phil Gardner	6	J. Watkins (Capt.)
Peter Evans	8	J. Simonet
Graham Evans	7	E. Pinkney

Replacements:

Gareth John	R. Etheridge
Jon Williams	R. Daldrey

Referee: Mr. Ken Parfitt (Port Talbot)

CLUB NOTES

We extend a very warm welcome to Gloucester our first English visitors this season. This is the first opportunity we have had in print of thanking the Gloucester club for their assistance in allowing two of their players, Mike Bourton and Alan Brinn, to play in the Wilf Hunt Memorial Match almost a year ago. Alan had to withdraw because of injury, but Mike Bourton played and we thank both of them for offering their services.

Last season's game at Gloucester ended in a win for Gloucester by 15 pts. to 12 pts ending up much closer in score than the earlier play had indicated. Rugby is a game of pressure and the pressure must be turned into points otherwise a reaction can set in. This happened at Gloucester last season. Had Gloucester taken all their chances they would have won very comfortably, but by the end of the game we were on top and could easily have "stollen" the game.

The same sort of situation happened last Saturday when we lost to Bridgend by 7 pts. to 3 pts. For half-an-hour we outplayed Bridgend and put them under considerable pressure. Unfortunately the pressure was not converted into points and when they took the lead much against the run of the play a reaction set in which took the next half hour to overcome and not enough time was left to wipe out the deficit.

Looking on the bright side—two players made their debut on Saturday—Jonathan Williams as hooker and Paul Ringer in the back row—and both did enough to show that they will be very welcome additions to the playing strength of the club.

Congratulations are in order to Clive Burgess and Gareth Howls—Welsh Clubs XV v. Japan at Swansea on Saturday next and also to Phil Gardner who was awarded his County Cap by Mr. Ken Gwilym after last Saturday's game. Although selected for tonight's game Clive will withdraw, but as Gareth is a replacement on Saturday he will probably play tonight. Other changes for tonight are—Russell Cole on the left wing for Ian Evans, Steve Lewis back at scrum half, John Short for Colin Williams at Loose-head prop, Gerwyn Williams for Jon Williams at Hooker, Graham Evans for Paul Ringer on the flank and Peter Evans for Clive Burgess at No. 8. These changes indicate the strength in depth that the club possesses.

Next Game: v. Crosskeys (Away). K.O. 3 p.m.

We have now heard from the Bedford Club and the kick-off for our home game with them on the 16th October has been arranged for **7 p.m.**

A few tickets for the Wales v. Argentine game are still available and may be purchased at the office in the club house after tonight's game. Season tickets will also be on sale in the office at the same time.

NEWS SHEET . . .

RUGBY VALE

It doesn't do to generalise. Not all Vale players make steel or dig coal and very few Gloucester men drive combine harvesters, although some own them. Visiting forwards *have* been known to master the home pack at Kingsholm and once or twice in a hundred and three years Gloucester place kickers have missed their targets.

Rutherford, Stephens and Peter Butler won so many matches for the club and county via the boot that opponents lobbied the Rugby Union to narrow the distance between the uprights. Butler has scored 284 out of Gloucestershire's 470 points in the last four seasons and in the last English County Final he scored every one. It was all a mystery to the toffs of Middlesex but the Butler did it.

Thirty years earlier Gloucester had another lethal kicker in Willie Jones who never dropped a catch for Glamorgan but dropped countless goals for his club and adopted county. He was a predecessor to the current Gloucester outside half also of Welsh stock, Chris Williams, who came south last year from Headingley and ended up playing for England. He showed his quality in the most difficult of circumstances, a new cap in a team doomed for the Wooden Spoon playing at Parc Des Princes.

Wales may be the nation of the swerve and sidestep as Barry is the land of the fish and the chip (Barry Council was the only one to intervene in the Cod War), but they have some tricky movers up the Forest and beyond and seven tries against Bedford last Saturday can't be bad.

They also have characters like Mike Burton who is well remembered at the Vale for travelling down to the Wilf Hunt Testimonial Match two years ago. In South Africa a foolish local called him "Sonny" and added injury to insult, but the wild colonial boy met the same fate as the Afrikaaner who thought Len Dimmick was just an old softie when they met in that giant of a game at Ebbw Vale in 1960. The combined Abertillery/Ebbw Vale side unluckily lost 3-nil to the Springboks who only lost to the Barbarians on that tour, and Len Dimmick was magnificent. What a Lion he would have made.

In the old days it was "outings" rather than tours with matches at exotic resorts like Resolven and Penygraig where no-good boyos lay in wait for the townies of the Vale. It's more cosmopolitan nowadays and recently our players have mixed with the flower of Scottish society, exchanged sign language with Argentinians (who appeared by arrangement with Fray Bentos), and very soon will meet healthy lads from New Zealand.

We have news from Auckland where Northcote-Birkenhead RFC have started their world tour touching down at such dull spots as Hawaii, California, Amsterdam and Hong Kong. The trip should liven up at Merthyr Tydfil, their HQ for the match with the Vale on Tuesday, October 19th. Air New Zealand are behind the tour so perhaps local bus companies will take the hint and sponsor us. All we ask for is mid-flight refuelling (Tankard preferably), understanding hostesses and wheels that stay on.

R.E.L.

A very special Fund Raising Dinner takes place in the Club on Friday, October 15th when film star and Broadway actor Victor Spinetti returns home as the special guest. The food will be a gourmet's delight, Haydn James has a few tickets left at £10.

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