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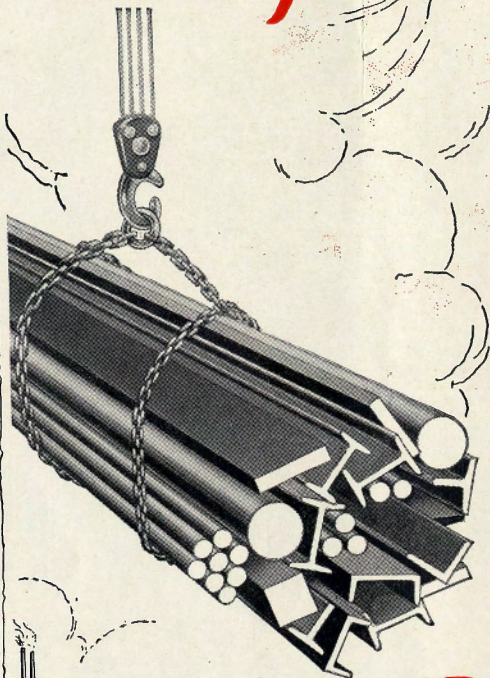
WALES *W* ENGLAND

Cardiff Arms Park
SATURDAY 15th JANUARY
1955

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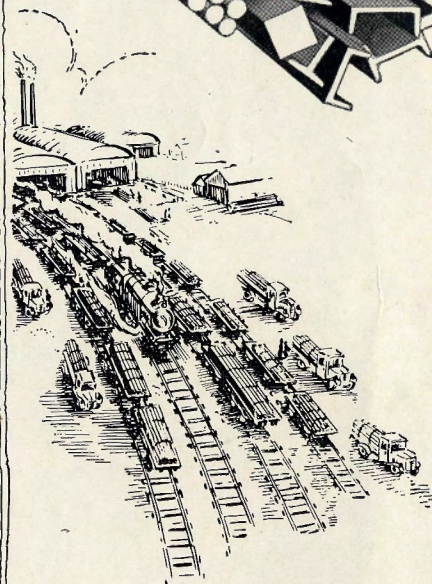
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Wales

versus

England

CARDIFF, 15th JANUARY, 1955

Welsh Rugby Football Union, 1954-55

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RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION 1954-55

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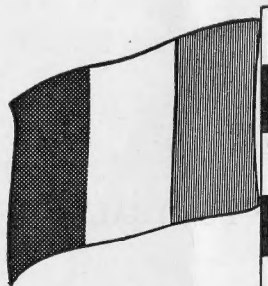
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THE SEARCHLIGHT OF MEMORY

by
WILF WOOLLER



IT was my good fortune to start my career for Wales at Twickenham in 1933—the first time Wales had won at the great English headquarters since their first encounter there in 1910—a game in which England, on a day of memorable incidents, beat Wales for the first time in twelve years. In so doing, they broke through the stranglehold which Wales had gained and held with only occasional lapses against all comers for ten golden years. The first Welsh win at Twickenham in 1933 prefaced the toughest and most closely contested period of any in the seventy-four years that these two rivals have fought their battles. It is interesting to compare these seven pre-war years with the eight which we have seen pass since the war. From a purely statistical point of view, Wales won two, England three and two were drawn in the pre-war era and, more illuminating still, is the low total of 57 points (27 by Wales, 30 by England). Of that 57, 22 (Wales 14, England 8) were registered in one match at Cardiff in January, 1938. In this game a howling gale of wind played tricks with the ball and the orthodox defence was, therefore, somewhat disorganised.

Cold Facts

I mention these cold facts because the probing searchlight of memory is kindly dimmed when focused on the more painful incidents of life, but in compensation, is over-generously amplified on the pleasant subjects.

In those pre-war years England consistently played a heavy steam-roller pack of forwards, highly skilled in covering defence and a back line more famed for its solidity than for its brilliance. It was as though the astute John Daniells had taken as his selection motto "Wales shall not pass" and added a private rider for his own personal satisfaction "and England will progress by the inevitable penalties." Wales, on the other hand, invariably possessed a swift and tricky back line, but with odd exceptions was never strong enough forward to gain the mastery necessary for an easy victory in the modern game. I often feel that the '30s brought to full fruition the wing-forward technique started so long ago by Ivor Morgan (Wales) and Charles Pillman (England) and developed so astutely by Wavell Wakefield in the early '20s. And with it all, the interlinking of forwards and threequarters in concentric circles of defence which gave every member of a team an added duty as a coverer of the opposition attacks.

A Pleasure to Play

Never was a try so difficult to get and only twelve came in seven games. Lest it be thought that this was the nature of all international football in that period, let me say that 112 points were scored in the seven Wales v. Scotland games. A Scottish back line of Logan and Shaw at half-back, and Fyfe, Macrae, Dick and Murdoch in the threequarters, was content to stand back and play Wales at the open game. For Wales, the incomparable Haydn Tanner and that elusive will-o'-the-wisp Cliff Jones, were not slow to employ similar tactics. With the forwards evenly matched, the quality of the football was delightful to watch and a pleasure to play. Against England it was different. Here was a grim and necessary duty. If the Scottish games were the cream cake of tea, here indeed was the bread and butter, the basic staff of life. Neither side would concede an inch. Too much by tradition alone was at stake and with the balance of power distributed as it was between the two countries, match after match produced a dour tough struggle which left each side quite exhausted.

AFTER THE MATCH . . .

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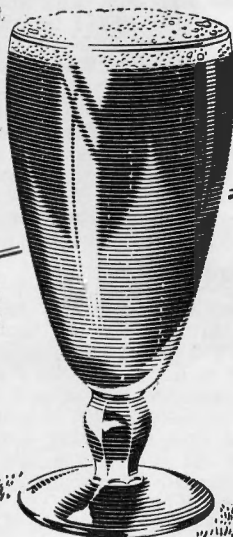
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Post-war the same intense rivalry has existed between England and Wales, but the character and composition of the teams has been different. Wales has produced, I believe, some of the finest packs that have ever represented her. Big fast forwards, well blended and intelligent. What greater line-out expert than Roy John? What cleverer prop forward than Cliff Davies? What of John Gwilliam, the leader, or Dai Davies, the hooker, of Billy Williams, the prop, of the roystering Rees Stephens, of Ewart Tamplin, the goal kicker, or the bulk of Don Hayward, of Syd Judd, the lock forward, Bob Evans on the open side, of Cantab Clem Thomas, Ray Cale, Gwyn Evans?

These are names to conjure with. Here has been, in my opinion, the golden era of the Welsh forwards. Players who have brought a greater measure of intelligence to forward play than ever before in the history of Wales.

Superb Technician

Behind them has been the crash-tackling Jack Matthews, the superb technician Bleddyn Williams, the tactical Billy Cleaver, the mercurial Cliff Morgan, the ever-green sprinting wing Ken Jones, the original Lewis Jones, Malcolm Thomas and several other splendid threequarters. Welsh play has never allowed the annual battle with England to settle down into the tight and stern affair of pre-war. Startling tries have been engineered and moves attempted that looked strangely out of place to me in a game of such consequence.

What of England in this period? They have tried without success to build up that same solidity forward for which they have had so often in the past cause to be thankful. Forwards such as John Kendall-Carpenter, V. G. Roberts, M. J. Berridge, R. V. Stirling, E. Evans, D. F. White, D. T. Wilkins, W. A. Holmes, G. R. d'A. Hosking, S. T. Adkins, fall into the best English traditions, but seldom have they approached an eight of the bulldog consistency of W. H. Weston, P. C. Dunkley, E. A. Hamilton-Hill, A. Clarke, C. Webb, R. J. Longland, E. S. Nicholson, D. A. Kendrew, who met Wales in a drawn match at Swansea in 1936.

Fortunate for Wales

Behind the scrummage has been experiment and variety until finally the Selectors found in Woodward, Quinn, Butterfield and Davies the most dangerous quartette they have possessed for over 20 years. It is fortunate for Wales the English forwards, sturdy workers though they have been, are not of like pattern.

When England pre-war, against Press opposition, split the brilliant club centre combination of Heaton and Leyland, to play the latter on the wing and the former in the centre with Cranmer, they illustrated their flair for comfortable solidarity. Cranmer, whose attack presented little difficulty, was the most difficult defender to outwit I ever played against. The English Selectors still hanker after a safe and solid XV, but as yet they have not found one. For the sake of the spectacle of the English-Welsh games of the future, I hope they never do—and I may say, with bias, the results as well.

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RESULTS OF PREVIOUS MATCHES

Matches played 59. England 29 victories, Wales 23, 7 draws.

1880-81 ENGLAND 7G, 1DG, 6T to 0 (Blackheath).	1913-14 ENGLAND 2G (10) to 1G, 1DG (9) (Twickenham).
1881-82 No match.	1919-20 WALES 1G, 2DG, 1PG, 1T (19) to 1G (5) (Swansea).
1882-83 ENGLAND 2G, 4T to 0 (Swansea).	1920-21 ENGLAND 1G, 1DG, 3T (18) to 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1883-84 ENGLAND 1G, 2T to 1G (Leeds).	1921-22 WALES 2G, 6T (28) to 2T (6) (Cardiff).
1884-85 ENGLAND 1G, 4T to 1G, 1T (Swansea).	1922-23 ENGLAND 1DG, 1T (7) to 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1885-86 ENGLAND 1G, 2T to 1G (Blackheath).	1923-24 ENGLAND 1G, 4T (17) to 3T (9) (Twickenham).
1886-87 DRAWN no score (Llanelly).	1924-25 ENGLAND 1PG, 3T (12) to 2T (6) (Twickenham).
1887-88 and 1888-89 No matches.	1925-26 DRAWN 1T (3) each (Cardiff).
1889-90 WALES 1T to 0 (Dewsbury).	1926-27 ENGLAND 1G, 1PG, 1GM (11) to 1PG, 2T (9) (Twickenham).
1890-91 ENGLAND 2G, 1T to 1G (Newport).	1927-28 ENGLAND 2G (10) to 1G, 1T (8) (Swansea).
1891-92 ENGLAND 3G, 1T to 0 (Blackheath).	1928-29 ENGLAND 1G, 1T (8) to 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1892-93 WALES 1G, 1PG, 2T to 1G, 3T (Cardiff).	1929-30 ENGLAND 1G, 1PG, 1T (11) to 1PG, 1T (6) (Cardiff).
1893-94 ENGLAND 5G (1m) to 1T (Birkenhead).	1930-31 DRAWN. ENGLAND 1G, 2PG (11); WALES 1G, 1GM, 1T (11) (Twickenham).
1894-95 ENGLAND 1G, 3T to 2T (Swansea).	1931-32 WALES 1G, 1DG, 1PG (12) to 1G (5) (Swansea).
1895-96 ENGLAND 2G, 5T to 0 (Blackheath).	1932-33 WALES 1DG, 1T (7) to 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1896-97 WALES 1G, 2T to 0 (Newport).	1933-34 ENGLAND 3T (9) to 0 (Cardiff).
1897-98 ENGLAND 1G, 3T to 1DG, 1T (Blackheath).	1934-35 DRAWN. ENGLAND 1PG (3); WALES 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1898-99 WALES 4G, 2T to 1T (Swansea).	1935-36 DRAWN no score (Swansea).
1899-1900 WALES 2G, 1PG to 1T (Gloucester).	1936-37 ENGLAND 1DG (4) to 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1900-01 WALES 2G, 1T to 0 (Cardiff).	1937-38 WALES 1G, 2PG, 1T (14) to 1G, 1T (8) (Cardiff).
1901-02 WALES 1PG, 2T to 1G, 1T (Blackheath).	1938-39 ENGLAND 1T (3) to 0 (Twickenham).
1902-03 WALES 3G, 2T to 1G (Swansea).	1946-47 ENGLAND 1G, 1DG (9) to 2T (6) (Cardiff).
1903-04 DRAWN. ENGLAND 1G, 1PG, 2T; WALES 3G (1m) (Leicester).	1947-48 DRAWN. ENGLAND 1PG (3); WALES 1T (3) (Twickenham).
1904-05 WALES 2G, 5T to 0 (Cardiff). (Modern Scoring Values Adopted).	(Dropped Goal reduced to 3 points).
1905-06 WALES 2G, 2T (16) to 1T (3) (Richmond).	1948-49 WALES 3T (9) to 1DG (3) (Cardiff).
1906-07 WALES 2G, 4T (22) to 0 (Swansea).	1949-50 WALES 1G, 1PG, 1T (11) to 1G (5) (Twickenham).
1907-08 WALES 3G, 1DG, 1PG, 2T (27) to 3G, 1T (18) (Bristol).	1950-51 WALES 4G, 1T (23) to 1G (5) (Swansea).
1908-09 WALES 1G, 1T (8) to 0 (Cardiff).	1951-52 WALES 1G, 1T (8) to 2T (6) (Twickenham).
1909-10 ENGLAND 1G, 1PG, 1T (11) to 2T (6) (Twickenham).	1952-53 ENGLAND 1G, 1PG (8) to 1PG (3) (Cardiff).
1910-11 WALES 1PG, 4T (15) to 1G, 2T (11) (Swansea).	1953-54 ENGLAND 3T (9) to 1PG, 1T (6) (Twickenham).
1911-12 ENGLAND 1G, 1T (8) to 0 (Twickenham).	
1912-13 ENGLAND 1G, 1DG, 1T (12) to 0 (Cardiff).	



W. J. Bancroft, the former Welsh full-back who made 33 consecutive appearances for Wales 1890-1901, congratulates Ken Jones, the Welsh captain, on making his 35th consecutive appearance for Wales to equal R. M. Owen's national record, before the game with Scotland last season.

FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONALS

Jan. 22	Ireland v. France, in Dublin
Feb. 5	Scotland v. Wales, at Murrayfield
„ 12	Ireland v. England, in Dublin
„ 26	England v. France, at Twickenham
„ 26	Scotland v. Ireland, at Murrayfield
Mar. 12	Wales v. Ireland, at Cardiff
„ 19	England v. Scotland, at Twickenham
„ 26	France v. Wales, in Paris

TODAY'S REFEREE :

Mr. O. B. GLASGOW of the Irish Rugby Union. One of the most popular referees of last season when he was honoured with the Calcutta Cup match. First refereed Wales at Stade Colombes when France was met in 1953. Has served on the Irish Rugby Union and in 1950 was the touch-judge in the famous Ireland v. Wales "Triple Crown" decider at Belfast. He ruled that M. C. Thomas had not gone into touch when scoring winning try. Is much respected by players and officials, and is a keen student of the game.

WELSH SCHOOLS RUGBY UNION
WALES v. ENGLAND
 CARDIFF ARMS PARK : : 19th MARCH 1955
 Kick-off 3.15 p.m.

Stand Tickets 5/-, Boys 2/6, available from Hon. Sec., 6, Bruton Place, Llandaff, Cardiff.



THE WELSH TEAM

Players originally selected for today's match

G. OWEN (Newport)

Full-back. Aged 23. 5 ft. 8 ins., 13 st. One of the three new caps in the side, Owen succeeds the veteran Evans at full-back. Born at Llanharan, he played for his native town, Maesteg, and Cardiff Athletic before doing National Service. Joined Newport at end of last season, and is now a student at Shoreditch Teachers Training College. Is an excellent athlete and was champion Welsh Javelin thrower. Has played consistently well for Newport this season and appeared in all three trials.



G. OWEN

K. J. JONES (Newport)

Right-wing. Aged 33 yrs. 5 ft. 11 ins., 12st. Teacher. Creates a new native record by making his 36th consecutive appearance for Wales today, and in every post-war International. Born at Blaenavon, he joined Newport after the War to become one of the outstanding personalities of Rugby Football and world athletics. Competed in 1948 Olympic Games, and 1953 Empire Games at Vancouver. Captained British Team in 1953 European Games. Fastest man ever to play for Wales, and has lost none of his form. Toured New Zealand with British team in 1950 and scored 17 tries in 17 matches.

G. WELLS (Cardiff)

Right-centre. Aged 26 yrs. 5 ft. 10 ins., 13st. The second of the new caps. A brilliant runner with the ball who has developed rapidly with Cardiff this season. Born in the Rhondda Valley, a home of champions, he first played for Neath, before entering St. Luke's (Exeter) T.C. where he became a star player and athlete, achieving a new British record for the hop, skip and jump. Took a teaching post at Cheltenham last September and returned to Cardiff Club, where with Bleddyn Williams he has formed a fine mid-field partnership.

B. L. WILLIAMS (Cardiff)

Left-centre. Aged 31 yrs. 5 ft. 10 ins., 14 st. Steel-works official. Captains the side again, and takes over from Ken Jones. Williams who played for Wales in war-time matches makes his 22nd full International appearance. Led Cardiff and Wales to victory over "All-Blacks" last season, and has been outstanding Welsh centre of post-war era. Strongly-built and possessing a wonderful side-step he has been attacking inspiration of Cardiff sides. Not quite as fast now as he was, he is still the most polished centre in the Game. Toured New Zealand with British Team 1950 as vice-captain.

T. J. BREWER (London Welsh)

Left-wing. Aged 25 yrs. 5 ft. 7 ins., 12 st. Returns to Welsh side after making one appearance as a substitute in 1950 at Twickenham. Now more matured and experienced he has played well for the London Welsh and Hants this season. Appeared in all three trials. Born at Newport he was a Welsh Secondary Schools "cap" before going up to Oxford where he gained a "Blue" in 1951. One of the few players to get his "cap" before his "Blue." Shortly to join the executive staff of a famous chocolate firm.



K. J. JONES



G. WELLS



B. L. WILLIAMS



T. J. BREWER



C. MORGAN



W. R. WILLIS



W. O. WILLIAMS

C. MORGAN (Bective Rangers)

Outside-half. One of the most colourful personalities in the Game, and the best outside-half in the four countries. First played for Wales in 1951 and makes 14th appearance today. Born in the Rhondda Valley he gained a Welsh Secondary Schools "cap" before joining Cardiff. Has played regularly for club and Wales since W. B. Cleaver retired, but this season has appeared for Bective Rangers while representing his firm in Ireland. A brilliant attacking and defensive player. Business manager.

W. R. WILLIS (Cardiff)

Inside-half. Aged 29 yrs. 5 ft. 9 ins., 13 st. The outstanding inside-half in Wales, making his 18th appearance for Wales since first capped against England in 1950. Has shared in brilliant partnership with Cliff Morgan and these two players will be basis of Welsh attacking strength today. Born in the Rhondda Valley, he was educated at Pangbourne and gained a commission in R.N.V.R. during the War. Played for Llandaff before joining Cardiff to succeed the great Tanner in 1949. Toured New Zealand with British Team in 1950. Has captained Cardiff, and is vice this season. Captained Wales v. France last season.

W. O. WILLIAMS (Swansea)

Prop. Aged 24 yrs. 5 ft. 11 ins., 14 st. Steel-worker. One of the old-fashioned style of hard-work front-row forwards, and makes his 16th consecutive appearance for Wales today. Born in the Gower peninsula, he played for Swansea in 1950 and was first capped for Wales against France in 1951. Played ever since and has always shown good form. He started for Swansea in the second-row but became a big "prop" for Wales. When in Royal Navy doing National Service he played in the Inter-Services Tournament and for Combined Services.

B. MEREDITH (Newport)

Hooker. Aged 24 yrs. 5 ft. 11 ins., 13 st. 7 lbs. Succeeded D. M. Davies last season in Irish match as Welsh hooker, and has done well in the important task of winning the ball in the tight. Born in Cwmbran, he gained a Welsh Secondary School "cap" before entering St. Luke's T.C. (Exeter) where has was an outstanding player. Last September he accepted a teaching post in Herts but travels every week to play for Newport. Now one of the best young forwards in Wales.

C. MEREDITH (Neath)

Prop. Aged 25 yrs. 5 ft. 10 ins., 14 st. A lively, intelligent front-row forward who was first "capped" in 1953 but then dropped, only to reappear with success last season against New Zealand. Born in Crynant, he played for the local club before joining Neath, for whom he played consistently well. He was at Cardiff University, but is now an official with the Steel Company of Wales at Margam. Figured in all trials this season and is a member of a very compact front-row. Seventh "cap" today.

J. R. G. STEPHENS (Neath)

Second-row. Aged 32 yrs. 6 ft. 2 ins., 15 st. Cafe proprietor. Returns to lead Welsh pack after missing the last two matches of last season. Though a "veteran" in the playing sense he is still remarkably fit and keen. First capped against England in 1947 and makes 22nd appearance for Wales today. Played for Welsh Schools and Welsh Secondary Schools before World War II. He is the son of a former Welsh "cap" Glyn Stephens, who is now a member of the International Board. Captained Neath for four seasons. Stephens is a big burly forward, and full of life. Toured N.Z. in 1950 and led Wales against England and Ireland last season.



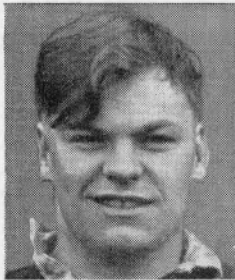
B. MEREDITH



C. MEREDITH



J. R. G. STEPHENS



R. ROBINS



B. SPARKES



S. JUDD



N. G. DAVIES

R. ROBINS (Pontypridd)

Second-row. Aged 23 yrs. 6 ft. 1 in., 14 st. An N.C.B. employee. One of the leading young forwards in Wales. Born at Pontypridd, he captained the Welsh Secondary Schools before doing his National Service. Played for Army but was prematurely "capped" in 1953, before returning to the side last season as an experienced and intelligent second-row forward. Makes fourth appearance for Wales today, and is a line-out expert.

B. SPARKES (Neath)

Open-side wing-forward. Aged 24 yrs. 5 ft. 10 ins., 14 st. 7 lbs. Replaces R. C. C. Thomas in back-row following good displays for Neath this season and in Final Trial. Is an attacking wing forward, strong and fast in the loose. Played for Pontypool and Bridgend before joining Neath. Was first capped last season against Ireland, but was not outstanding. However this year he is a much improved player and particularly lively.

S. JUDD (Cardiff)

Lock-man. Aged 25 yrs. 6 ft. 1 in., 14 st. 7 lbs. Teacher. Loses the pack leadership to Stephens, but retains the No. 8 position. First capped against England in 1953, and has missed only one match since and that through injury. Ninth appearance today. This season's

captain of Cardiff, after two seasons as vice; he led the Welsh pack when Stephens dropped out last season. A big fellow, he is a good player in the loose and at the line-out. Played for Cardiff and Wales against N.Z. last season.

N. G. DAVIES (London Welsh)

Blind-side wing forward. Aged 26 yrs. 6 ft. 3 ins., 13 st. Teacher. Gains his first cap today although first selected to play for Wales against New Zealand in 1953. He had to withdraw on eve of match through injury, and failed to regain his place last season. Tall and active, he was born at Blackwood and is now teaching in Manchester, but travels to London to play for London Welsh. An International basket-ball player, he is a line-out expert. Comes into side in place of Len Davies.

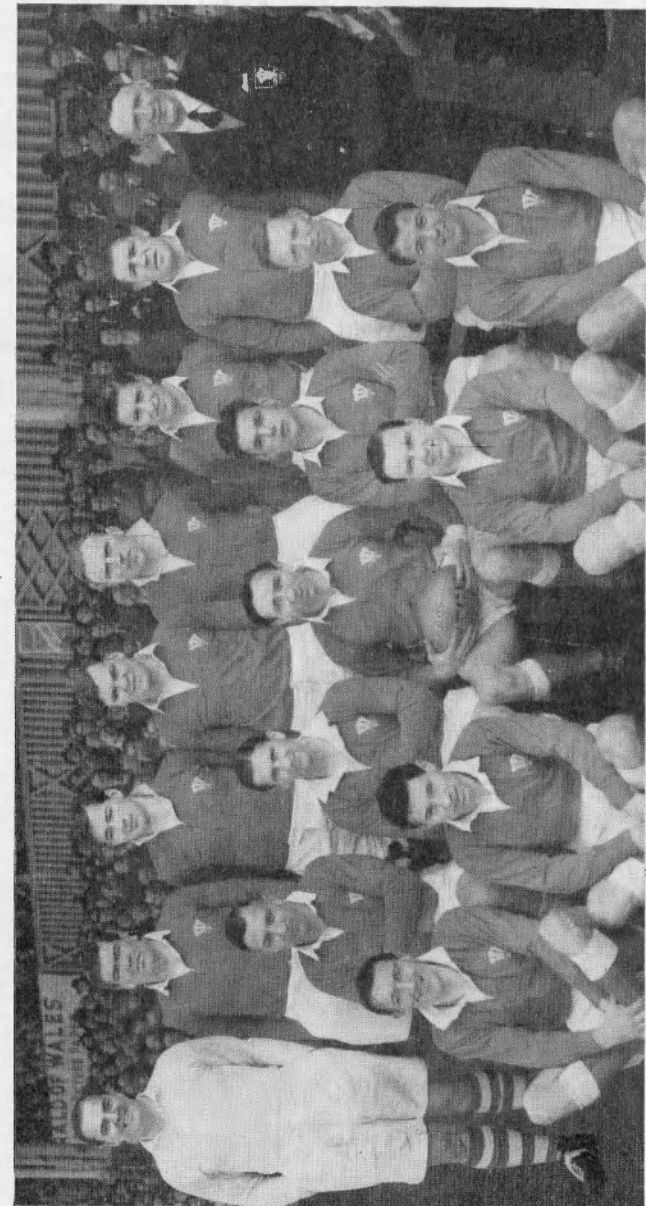
International Championship 1953-54

THERE was no one champion country in 1953-54. England, the holders, beat Wales, who beat France, who beat England, and the three, therefore, in that roundabout way, came to tie for the title. That did not prevent England from winning something as highly valued in the British Isles as any championship—the Triple Crown. Ireland won only one game in four, and Scotland, for all their splendid effort against New Zealand—outside the competition of course—once more retained the "wooden spoon" without a single success to cheer them up. France had never before gone so near to finishing alone at the top of the table.

					Pts.		Pts. in
		P	W	D	L	For	Agst. Table
England	...	4	3	0	1	39	23 6
France	...	4	3	0	1	35	22 6
Wales	...	4	3	0	1	52	34 6
Ireland	...	4	1	0	3	18	34 2
Scotland	...	4	0	0	4	6	37 0

N.B. Positions in previous season were: England, won 3, drew 1 (7 pts.), Wales, won 3, lost 1 (6), Ireland, won 2, drew 1, lost 1 (5), France, won 1, lost 3 (2), Scotland, lost 4 (0).

WALES AT SWANSEA LAST SEASON



Standing: Dr. P. F. Cooper (Referee), B. Meredith (Newport), R. C. C. Thomas (Swansea), R. Robins (Pontypridd), R. H. Williams (Llanelli), L. Davies (Llanelli), C. Meredith (Neath), Mr. I. Jones (W.R.U.) (Touch Judge), Seated: W. O. Williams (Swansea), W. R. Willis (Cardiff), K. J. Jones (Newport) (Capt.), S. Judd (Cardiff), V. Evans (Neath). In front: R. Williams (Llanelli), C. Morgan (Cardiff), B. L. Williams (Cardiff), G. Griffiths (Cardiff).



WALES

1. ~~G. OWEN~~ **E. EDWARDS**
Newport

2. **K. J. JONES**
Newport

3. †**G. WELLS**
Cardiff

4. **B. L. WILLIAMS**
Cardiff (CAPTAIN)

5. **T. J. BREWER**
London Welsh

6. **C. MORGAN**
Bective Rangers

7. **W. R. WILLIS**
Cardiff

8. **W. O. WILLIAMS**
Swansea

9. **B. MEREDITH**
Newport

10. **C. MEREDITH**
Neath

11. **J. R. G. STEPHENS**
Neath

12. **R. ROBINS**
Pontypridd

13. **B. SPARKES**
Neath

14. **S. JUDD**
Cardiff

15. †**N. G. DAVIES**
London Welsh

Touch Judge: **IVOR JONES** (Welsh Rugby Union)

12



ENGLAND



1. **N. M. HALL**
Richmond (CAPTAIN)

5. **R. C. BAZLEY**
Waterloo and Army

4. **W. P. C. DAVIES**
Harlequins

3. **J. BUTTERFIELD**
Northampton

2. **J. E. WOODWARD**
Wasps

6. †**D. G. S. BAKER**
Old Merchant Taylors

7. **J. E. WILLIAMS**
Old Millhillians

8. †**G. W. HASTINGS**
Gloucester

9. **N. A. LABUSCHAGNE**
Guy's Hospital

10. †**D. St. G. HAZELL**
Leicester

11. **P. D. YOUNG**
Dublin Wanderers

12. †**J. H. HANCOCK**
Newport and Army

13. †**P. H. RYAN**
Richmond

14. †**P. J. TAYLOR**
Northampton

15. **R. HIGGINS**
Liverpool

Touch Judge: **C. D. LABORDE** (Middlesex)

13

FULL BACKS

THREE-QUARTERS

RIGHT WING

LEFT WING

RIGHT CENTRE

LEFT CENTRE

LEFT CENTRE

RIGHT CENTRE

LEFT WING

RIGHT WING

HALF BACKS

STAND-OFF

SCRUM

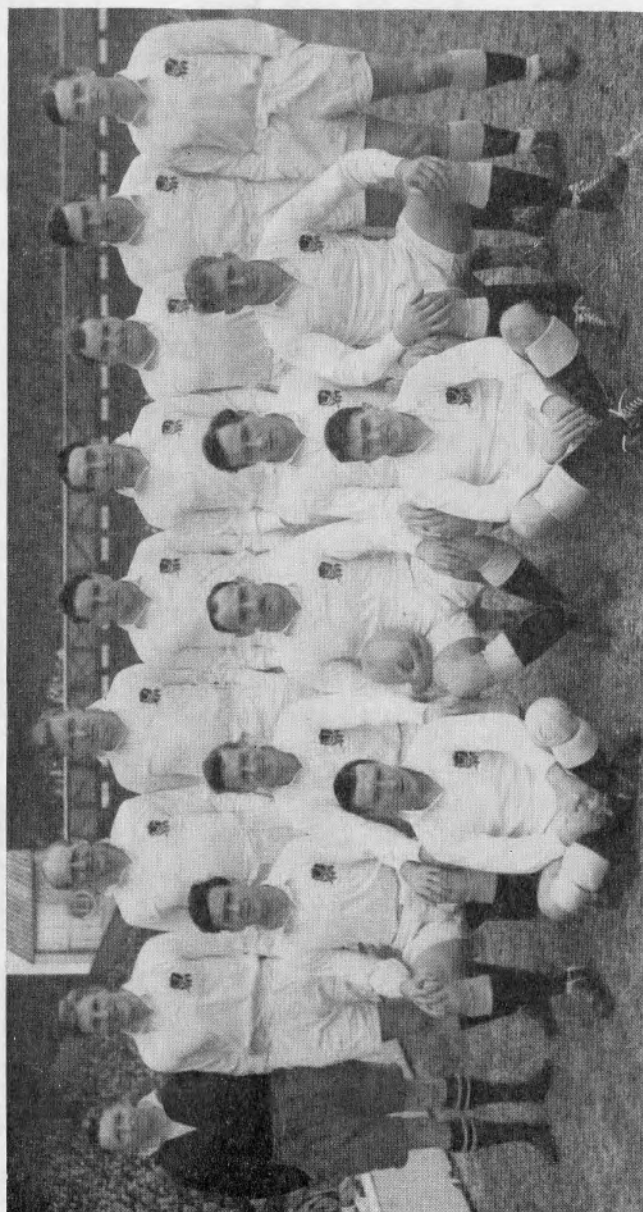
FORWARDS

Referee:

Mr. O. B. GLASGOW
(Ireland)

KICK-OFF 2.45 P.M.

† A new cap



Standing: Mr. A. I. Dickie (Scotland) (Referee), W. P. C. Davies (Harlequins), P. G. Yarranton (R.A.F. and Wasps), P. D. Young (Dublin Wanderers), J. P. Quinn (New Brighton), R. Higgins (Leeds University and Liverpool), D. L. Sanders (Harlequins), D. S. Wilson (Metropolitan Police), I. King (Harrogate). Seated: J. Butterfield (Northampton), E. Evans (Sale), R. V. Stirling (R.A.F. and Wasps) (Captain), J. MacG. K. Kendall-Carpenter (Bath), J. E. Woodward (Wasps). On Ground: G. Rimmer (Waterloo), M. Regan (Liverpool).

THE ENGLISH TEAM



Players originally selected for today's match

N. M. HALL (Richmond) (Captain)

Born Huddersfield 2/8/1925. 12 st 6 lb., 6 ft. Educated at Worksop, Norman ("Nim") Hall, making his 16th full international appearance, is the most experienced member of the England XV. He possesses one of the best football brains in the game which enables him to deal with the most critical situation in a cool, efficient manner. Two seasons ago he lead England to their Championship success but a persistent back injury kept him out of international football last winter. He gained his early caps as a stand-off half but is now an automatic choice for full-back. He is a splendid kicker with either foot and a match winner with his drop goals. Hall is an insurance broker.

J. E. WOODWARD (Wasps)

Born Wheeler End, Bucks 17/4/1931. 15 st., 6 ft. 11 in. R.G.S. High Wycombe. Ted Woodward, with his fierce hand-off and powerful touchline dashes, has always been a popular personality in Wales where he has played some of his finest games. First came into prominence while still at school, captaining the English school-boys XV and becoming an All-England schools sprint champion. Member of Middlesex team which won county title last season. This will be his 13th cap. Has his own butchers business.

J. BUTTERFIELD (Northampton)

Born Heckmondwike 9/8/1929. 12 st. 8 lb., 5 ft. 11 ins. Cleckheaton G.S. and Loughborough College. Teacher of Physical Education at Wellingsborough G.S. Jeffrey Butterfield gains his eighth cap today. He is a beautifully balanced runner and one of the few centres who can satisfy the purists in the giving and taking of passes. Came to the Rugby forefront three years ago when his attacking play won golden opinions from the South African touring side. Captained Yorkshire and is one of the fittest men in the game.

W. P. C. DAVIES (Harlequins)

Born Abberley (Worcestershire) 6/8/1928. 13 st. 6 lb., 6 ft. Denstone College and Cambridge University where athletics occupied most of his recreational time. Now a biology master at Christ's Hospital, near Horsham, Philip Davies is a powerful player whose acceleration of pace and body swerve make him very difficult to stop once he gets in full stride. Received his first cap as a centre against Scotland in 1953 but his two appearances last season were on the wing. This winter the selectors have kept him in the middle of the threequarter line, where he and Butterfield combined splendidly in the second trial last month.

R. C. BAZLEY (Waterloo & Army)

Born Barrow-in-Furness 15/12/1929. 13 st., 5 ft. 11 ins. Barrow G.S. and Liverpool University. Civil Engineer. Reginald Charles Bazley is a fast, dangerous attacking wing who was one of the successes of the final trial a fortnight ago. He won the first of his six caps against Ireland in March, 1952, but did not gain a place in the national side last season. He is an all-round sportsman, having achieved athletic distinction as a discus and javelin thrower and cross country runner. Also played North Lancashire League cricket.



N. M. HALL



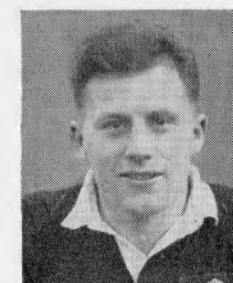
J. E. WOODWARD



J. BUTTERFIELD



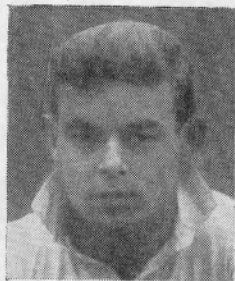
W. P. C. DAVIES



R. C. BAZLEY



D. St. G. HAZELL



J. E. WILLIAMS



D. G. S. BAKER



N. A. LABUSCHAGNE



G. W. HASTINGS



P. D. YOUNG

D. G. S. BAKER (Old Merchant Taylors)

Born Las Palmas, Canary Isles 24/11/1929. 13 st. 11 lb., 5 ft. 10 ins. Merchant Taylors' and Oxford. Douglas George Santley Baker wears the England jersey for the first time today. He is a quick, well-balanced footballer who is not obsessed with the present-day tendency to kick from the stand-off half position. He prefers to let the threequarters receive the ball. Knows every facet of Williams's play as they have been the Middlesex pair for three seasons. One of the few to wear contact lenses while playing. An Oxford blue in 1951-52.

J. E. WILLIAMS (Old Millhillians)

A native of Leeds, aged 23. 13 st., 5 ft. 11 ins., John Williams possesses a dual qualification for his father is Welsh. England gave him his first cap last April when he took the place of G. Rimmer (Waterloo), injured, against France in Paris. Is one of the biggest scrum-halves to play in the England colours since the days of B. C. Gadney. He throws out a fast, long service and can split open opposing defences by his sudden breaks from the scrum. Williams uses these solo dashes more sparingly than a year ago and his play has benefited accordingly.

D. St. G. HAZELL (Leicester)

Born Taunton. Aged 24. 12 st. 3 lb., 5 ft. 11 ins. Now a schoolmaster in Leicester. Joined the "Tigers" at the beginning of last season, after a teaching course at Loughborough College, and became club's leading points scorer. Has played for Somerset but this season has been valuable member of Leicestershire county fifteen which has reached the semi-finals for the first time for 27 years. Hazell is a solid front row forward and a capable place-kick who has proved a worthy deputy to Sanders in the trials.

N. A. LABUSCHAGNE (Guy's Hospital)

Born Durban 26/5/1931. 14 st., 6 ft. 1½ ins. Hilton College, Natal and University of Cape Town, where he won blues 1950-51. A dental student, Nicholas Arthur Labuschagne played for Western Province in 1950 and was nominated for the 1951 Springbok trials. His only previous cap was in the corresponding fixture two years ago when England won 8-3 at Arms Park. Since then he has been kept out by the skilful hooking of E. Evans (Sale), whom he opposed in all three trials this season.

G. W. HASTINGS (Gloucester)

Born Dursley, Gloucestershire 7/11/1925. 5 ft. 11 ins., 15 st. 5 lb. Educated at Cheltenham G.S. and is an aircraft design draughtsman. Played for Old Patesian (Cheltenham) and Cheltenham before joining Gloucester in 1949. He is the present captain of the club and regarded as a natural successor to R. V. Stirling in the England team. This is his first cap. He does his work thoroughly, putting every ounce of power into scrummaging yet keeps up with the play in the open.

P. D. YOUNG (Dublin Wanderers)

Aged 27. 6 ft. 2 ins., 14 st. Educated Clifton and Pembroke College, Cambridge. Commercial traveller. Peter Young appeared in all five internationals last season, his first as an England player. He is a hard-working second row forward, skilled in line-out play. Gained a blue against Oxford in 1949. Has been a regular member of Gloucestershire county teams for several seasons.



J. H. HANCOCK



P. H. RYAN



P. J. TAYLOR

J. HANCOCK (Newport and Army)

Born Newport 26/9/1932. 15 st., 6 ft. 2 ins. Educated at Newport Technical School, John Hancock is of Somerset parentage. He was chosen for the second Welsh Trial this season after being watched on the same day by selectors from both countries, but preferred to take his chance with England. Played in the final trial at Twickenham a fortnight ago and will be winning his first cap today. Originally assisted Cross Keys but, after taking part in Cardiff trials at the beginning of the season, decided to join his native club. Now stationed at Bridgend where he is doing his National Service with R.E.M.E.

P. H. RYAN (Richmond)

Born at Bowden, Cheshire 1/10/1930. 13 st., 5 ft. 10 ins. Educated Harrow and Caius, Cambridge. Gained blues in 1952-53. Richmond has been his only club team. Until this season he played for them as a wing forward but did so well when pressed into service as an emergency wing-threequarter that he has been kept there. The selectors caused something of a surprise by restoring him to wing forward in the trials. Although not possessing the sense of position of D. S. Wilson (Met. Police), who is unfit, Peter Ryan is a lively attacker. Employed by a fire engineering firm in London.

P. J. TAYLOR (Northampton)

Born Wakefield 6/6/1931. 15½ st., 6 ft. Educated Salesian College, Farnborough (Hampshire). Played for Wakefield until this season when he joined Northampton, Philip Taylor is in his final year at Loughborough College. He took part in all three England trials two seasons ago but this is his first international. He played in the middle of the second row in the three trials this season but today he will be at No. 8. This big, powerful forward, is a fine line-out player whom Yorkshire have chosen more than 20 times.

R. HIGGINS (Liverpool)

Born Widnes 11/7/1930. 13 st. 12 lb., 5 ft. 10 ins. Wade Deacon G.S. and Leeds University, where he studied agriculture. Reginald Higgins is a member of a well-known Rugby League family from Widnes. He made his international debut against Wales at Twickenham a year ago and gains his fifth cap today, at blindside wing forward. A powerful runner, who does much useful covering round the scrum and supports his scrum-half effectively in breakaways.

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CARDIFF ARMS PARK

by J. B. G. THOMAS

WHILE watching the enthusiastic young Cambridge side capturing the Cardiff's Club unbeaten and ground records in December, memories came drifting in, indeed some were reflected in the muddy water of the Cardiff Arms Park! Two famous matches in the mud were highlighted and with them many arguments as to the ability of Welshmen to play the Game in difficult conditions. Through the long and colourful history of the Ground, there runs a story of success and disaster in the mud.

The condition of the Arms Park in December was a sad reflection upon our traditional but unpleasant British winters! The high, swirling waters of the River Taff, lapping the western end of the ground, threatened a flood which could have prevented today's match being played. No human device could cope with the river in its greedy, gurgling mood, and although the ground was re-drained a few years ago, modern apparatus did not seem capable of coping with such a task.

Yet the thought of another "1907" or "1922" warmed our hearts, for in those famous years, great victories were scored by Cardiff over the "Springboks," and Wales over England respectively. Former Welsh International Rhys Gabe, sitting quietly beside me in the press box, showed no outward concern at the use of the wrong tactics by Cardiff in their efforts to preserve a 36-match record. Yet his mind must have raced back to 1907 when the Cardiff team of which he was a member, gained the most decisive victory over a "Springbok" touring team ever achieved by a British side. In mud, ankle deep, Cardiff with several internationals in the side, played superb football, typical of the "Golden Era," to win by 17 points to nil. This defeat hung over the South Africans like a dark threatening cloud, until they defeated Wales in the rain at Swansea in 1931. From 1907 until then, the warning was . . . "Be careful in Wales if the going is heavy. Welshmen can do anything in the mud!"

It was true in 1922. England, who won the Championship in 1921 under the inspiring leadership of W. J. A. Davies, met Wales at the Arms Park. They promised victory for their followers, and with a pack composed of L. G. Brown (acting captain in the absence of Davies), Joyce, Wakefield, Conway, Edwards, Gardner, Blakiston and

Tucker. There was little doubt they would achieve success. However, they reckoned without the mud of the Arms Park. Wales without a Cardiff player in their ranks, but some remarkable forwards expert in the lost arts of dribbling, rushing and wheeling, controlled the play. The mud did not worry them! Wales romped home to victory by two goals and six tries to a mere two tries. The mud had played its part.

Comparative Respectability

Sir Wavell Wakefield, interviewed after the match said . . . "The ground was wretched, and that beat us as much as anything." The reputation for mud remained for a few years, before the drainage was improved, and by the time World War II arrived the ground had achieved comparative respectability! From 1945 until this season it has provided soft green turf, almost as rich in quality and hue as that of Twickenham. This winter, not even Twickenham could have withstood the onslaught of torrential rain and regular play.

For all that has been said against it, and "Springboks" suspect it, New Zealanders fear it, and Englishmen are wary of it, the Cardiff Arms Park is one of the world's most historic grounds. It has played a noble part in the development of the game, and the memorable matches played upon it are like milestones along the broad highway of Welsh Rugby history. England's first match there was in 1893—over 60 years ago—and even that match was in doubt right up until the kick-off. The turf had frozen hard during the week, and during Friday braziers were used to thaw out the turf. When they were removed on Saturday morning, they left a thin layer of soft mud and ash on the surface. Still the match was played and Wales won, by a mere point, but few of the crowd realised as they left the field that victory was theirs!

W. J. "Billy" Bancroft, still alive at the age of 84, dropped a lovely penalty goal in the closing minutes, despite the protests of his captain A. J. "Monkey" Gould, who wanted him to place the ball. Unfortunately few of the crowd were aware of the fact that the scoring system had been changed by the International Board a few days previously. Instead of sharing a draw, Wales had won! Two months later she gained her first "Triple Crown" victory.

Greatest Match

The Cardiff Arms Park had proved itself as an international ground. In 1905 New Zealand were defeated there in the greatest match of all time. No more than 40,000 were present at the match, but an unofficial census taken before the 1935 match revealed a total of roughly 100,000! The story of 1905 had become legend; so had the Cardiff Arms Park. From 1905 to the "Springbok" match of 1907, and on to the England match of 1922 and Gracie's match of 1923, the fame of the ground increased with the passing of every season. Sam Tucker was flown to the ground in 1930 to hook England to victory, and in 1935 New Zealand fell again, beneath the pounding seven-league stride of Wilfred Wooller.

Cliff Jones and Vivian Jenkins kicked Wales to victory against England in a gale of wind in 1938, and Australia suffered three defeats there in 1947 at the hands of Cardiff, Wales and the Barbarians. The last-named match, magnificent in every way, finally established the Arms Park as the home of the nomadic Barbarians, and set in motion the fixture to highlight each visit of a Dominion touring team. In 1951 the "Springboks" with Dame Fortune to help them on their way against a swarming Cardiff side, and a determined Wales, won all three matches on the ground. Two years later, indeed only last season, New Zealand fell before Cardiff and Wales in two memorable matches, beaten as much by the atmosphere, as their worthy opponents.

What is it that the Arms Park possesses to create its "bogy?" England no longer fear the Celtic roar and community singing, for they gained victories there in 1947 and 1953, when Wales believed her players favourites. England sends her players to do battle again today, and they will not fear the ground, even if they fear the twinkling feet of Cliff Morgan, the latest in a long line of brilliant Welsh outside-halves.

Fancy the Chance

Today's 60th official meeting of the two countries is an important one, for the victors can fancy the chance of winning the "Triple Crown." The players themselves realise that a good performance can earn for them a chance to tour with the British team in South Africa, which is regarded as the highest honour in the game. This year, the Welsh Rugby Union celebrates its 75th anniversary, and thus victory for Wales would be a fitting celebration.

THE LAST WELSH MATCH—

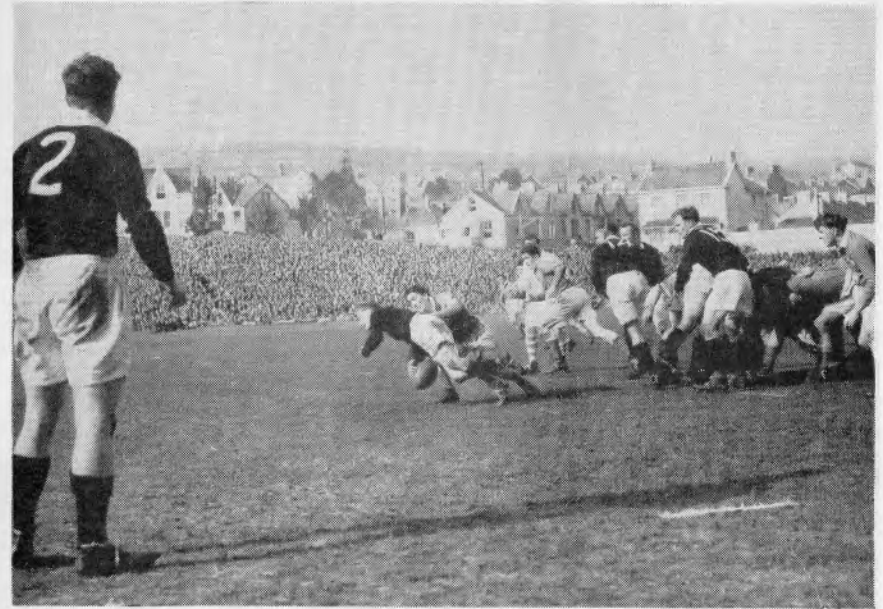


Though tackled by two Scottish defenders, B. Meredith, the Welsh hooker, dives over for the second Welsh try, with K. Jones, C. Meredith and R. Robins in support.



Ray Williams crosses the line to touch down for Wales's third try, before being pushed into touch in goal.

SCOTLAND BEATEN AT SWANSEA



W. R. Willis, the Welsh scrum half, races smartly around the scrum to rob Scottish half L. P. MacIachlan of the ball.



Russell Robins, the brilliant young Welsh second row forward (12), jumps highest in a hotly contested line-out. Welshmen up with him are R. H. Williams (left) and C. Meredith (right).



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Former Welsh scrum-half and captain. He was capped twenty five times for Wales.

Former Welsh outside-half. Member of the only team that beat the All Blacks during their 1905-6 tour.

are here this afternoon to cover the
match for the NEWS of the WORLD. Their
comments will appear in tomorrow's

NEWS OF THE WORLD

ENGLISH FORTUNES AT CARDIFF

By O. L. OWEN

ENGLAND had played four matches in Wales before they visited the Cardiff Arms Park in 1893 and there, for a first time, experienced defeat on a Welsh ground. To be sure, some seasons earlier, England had been glad enough to share a pointless draw at Llanelly and were seriously perturbed by the narrow defeat in a snowstorm at Dewsbury in 1890.

The season 1892-93, however, was to prove infinitely more significant, for it brought Wales not only their first championship and Triple Crown but fairly set Welsh Rugby as a whole on the road to world-wide fame. Equally so, it may be said to have ended the period in which only England and Scotland seriously contested the title of champions. In the sixteen seasons which followed 1893, Scotland and Wales shared the ascendancy, with Ireland pressing them hard. England never were more than "placed" until, in 1910, the acquisition of Twickenham synchronised with a great revival of open play initiated by the Harlequins.

First Victory

That first Welsh victory at Cardiff in January 1893 certainly left its mark upon the game. In the first place, it led to the adoption of four three-quarter backs by all four countries. Then, there was the arrival of W. J. Bancroft as a new-style full-back, notable more for his clever tactics and wonderfully accurate kicking than the old traditional hardihood as a stopper. Very appropriately, he was the first man to win an international match by means of a penalty goal, though it might be added that Scotland, in the following year at Richmond, beat England in the same manner. At Cardiff, England still were leading by 11 points to 9, when Bancroft, with the utmost confidence and precision, raised the Welsh score to 12 by means of a penalty, taken as a drop-kick, from a wide angle. English critics, from all accounts, were more shaken by the palpable unfitness of some of their nine forwards than this epoch-making penalty goal. The tiring of England's southern contingent may have been partly explained by lack of recent match-practice through bad weather. Judging by the way in which Bancroft subsequently nursed his own forwards by cleverly baiting the opposing pack, that also may have contributed to the defeat of England.

Neither country was lacking in first-class players on that memorable afternoon and, though very few of them still are with us—a remark which equally applies to the spectators—it may be of interest to print both teams.

WALES—W. J. Bancroft (Swansea); W. McCutcheon (Oldham), A. J. Gould (Newport) (captain), J. Conway Rees (Oxford University), Norman Biggs (Cardiff); P. Phillips and F. C. Parfitt (Newport); H. T. Day, T. C. Graham, J. Hanner, W. H. Watts and A. W. Boucher (Newport), F. Mills (Swansea), C. B. Nicholl (Cambridge University) and A. F. Hill (Cardiff).

ENGLAND—E. Field (Cambridge University); R. E. Lockwood (Heckmondwike), F. H. R. Alderson (Hartlepool Rovers), A. E. Stoddart (Blackheath) (captain); R. F. C. de Winton and H. Marshall (Blackheath); S. M. J. Woods (Taunton), F. Evershed (Burton-on-Trent), T. Broadley (Bingley), F. Greenwell (Rockiff), J. Toothill (Bradford), W. E. Bromet (Richmond), P. Maud and F. C. Lohden (Blackheath), and H. Bradshaw (Bramley).

Including the game of 1893, Wales and England have met thirteen times at Cardiff. Wales have won seven of the matches and England five. One game, in 1925-26, was left drawn at a try all. This summary, however, does not tell the full story. Wales established a sequence of four successes before England broke in with a decisive victory by one goal, one dropped goal and one try (12 points) to 0 in 1912-13. From then onwards to 1952-53, England had less reason to fear the periodic fixture at Cardiff than Wales had cause to dread the journey to Twickenham. Of the last nine matches at Cardiff—including that of 1913—England have won five and Wales three, with, of course, the draw of 1926 intervening.

The "Golden Era"

Welsh Rugby was on the down-grade and England's on the way up in 1913. Wales no longer revealed the superb combination of the "golden era," whereas England had found match-winning backs in W. J. A. Davies, R. W. Poulton—an English Arthur Gould—and V. H. M. Coates, of Bath. Added to these was one of

the greatest of all winging forwards, C. H. Pillman, of Blackheath, as first player of his type—a greyhound made of whipcord—as ever took the field. English morale as well as ability had risen steadily since the drawn game with South Africa at the Crystal Palace in 1906, the victory over Wales in the first match played at Twickenham, in 1910, and the great effort which followed in 1911 against the Second Springboks who won only through the two penalty goals landed by the stupendous place-kicker, D. F. T. Morkel.

Then came the war of 1914-18, followed by another successful period for England and a correspondingly poor one for a Wales who were strangely slow to adapt themselves to the New Rugby initiated by great forwards like L. G. Brown and W. W. Wakefield.

That, however, did not prevent England from coming a terrible cropper at Cardiff in 1922. Hopelessly wrong tactics in the mud on that occasion led to their crushing defeat by two goals and six tries to two tries. The Englishmen persisted in passing and lost more ground than they gained in doing so. The Welsh forwards, headed by Dai Hiddlestone, of Neath, contented themselves with kicking the ball through the mud and following it up. The defence found falling on the slippery ball as useless as trying to pass it.

The pointless draw of 1926 also reminded England that Welsh Rugby still had a kick in it. On the other hand, although Wales found a championship fifteen in 1930-31, they still had to accept two more defeats at Cardiff—in 1929-30 and 1933-34—before, in 1937-38, they gained their first victory over England on the Cardiff Arms Park since 1921-22. The Wales of Davey, Boon, Morley, Bassett, the still youthful Davies and Tanner at half-back, C. W. Jones, Wooller, Vivian Jenkins and other fine players would have been even more successful if the forwards in front of them invariably had been of the same high standard. Jones was Tanner's partner on this occasion and it was his clever use of the punt ahead and two splendidly kicked penalty goals by Jenkins which enabled Wales to win by 14 points to 8. The forwards, who used the 3-4-1 formation for part of the time, also did well. Wooller unfortunately was kept out of the match by injury.

Three matches have been played by the two countries at Cardiff since the Second War, and of these England have won two and Wales one. Of the players who helped England to win in 1947 by a goal and a dropped goal to two tries, there remains only N. M. Hall, now at full-back, who dropped the decisive goal. Hall, too, was there in 1953 when England scored a goal and a penalty goal to a penalty goal, though it was Woodward—another survivor along with Bazley and the hooker Labuschagne—who landed the penalty goal which neutralised that kicked for Wales by T. E. Davies.

The Welsh victory in 1949 came between these two English successes. Wales scored three tries to the dropped goal landed by Hall, who certainly has caused Wales a lot of trouble in his time. Of the victorious Welsh team, there remain only the two famous veteran three-quarters, Ken Jones and Bleddyn Williams. The former by playing at all will have achieved something unique, for he will have exceeded at long last the record number of 35 Welsh caps won by Dickie Owen.

TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY

The History of the Rugby Football Union

By O. L. OWEN

With a wealth of facts, figures and dates, it is essential for the library but at the same time it is the story of the game's development from its origin in antiquity, through twenty-a-side to the Rugby of today. It includes Internationals, the Calcutta Cup, Twickenham and all the Dominion tours. The History makes absorbing reading.

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