

Whitchurch (Cardiff) Rugby

The early years.

This was written for personal family reasons, but, in doing so, it should enhance the history and heritage of not just Whitchurch Rugby Club, but, the village in general and if others can benefit by seeing their family name in the limelight, even better. It is as accurate as research sources from The National Library of Wales newspaper archives permit. Some other teams from our village have been included to provide wider knowledge and to give an all round representation of local rugby at that time, it represents just a chapter in a document of social history.

Terry Chard

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The early years.

Rugby School, whose name has been given to the sport, was pivotal in the development of rugby football (if we are to believe what's written) and the first rules of the game that became rugby union football were established there in 1845. In Wales rugby clubs were established as town clubs in both large communities and small mining towns during the 1870s and '80s. Many early players had some experience of the game in the north of England and took their interest with them to Wales. By the early 1880s rugby had become a vital part of working-class culture in south Wales, which distinguished the game there from its upper-class association in other parts of the British Isles. Wales had high levels of immigration in the late 19th century, and rugby emerged at this time as a focal point of a new modern Welsh nationalism. As a result, the Welsh Rugby Union formed in 1881, and Wales soon entered the Home Championship, competing with England, Ireland, and Scotland. Wales won its first title in 1893. (Ref Encyclopaedia Britannica – Rugby)

A thought too, must be given to the prompt coverage and publishing of matches in the newspapers at that time. Knowing the manner in which typesetting and printing was done in those days, it's amazing to think how productive those people were, getting editions out in such rapid time. Luckily for us they are now part of our history and heritage and something to treasure. Where will researchers find your results and stories in 120 years time?

Accreditation - The National Library of Wales Newspaper Archives <https://www.library.wales>

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An interesting feature of the newspaper cuttings that follow is the names of some of the old clubs that Whitchurch played against, it makes you wonder where they were from, where they were based and where their home ground was (there was much more land around back then). Sadly, a lot of them didn't stand the test of time, our club did, not without its own problems, but, bear in mind that the 20th century had 2 world wars and a lot of political upheaval and such things would have had a huge affect on the longevity of all clubs and the development of sport in general in the first half of the 20th century.

You have to take your hat off to the early 'pioneers' of our local rugby teams, most of these people were labouring in local factories, farmers fields and the railway, although local agriculture was in decline at that time, the Melingriffith tin works was a large employer and the Taff Vale Railway had been constructed c.mid 19thC and as a big employer. Those times in general and work itself, was hard and tough, but the people were resourceful enough to create and build sports clubs, organise matches, travel to away games and arrange tour matches (no cars back then).

Not all matches had a successful outcome for various reasons as you will find out, disputed tries galore, but, a curious aspect to the sport in its early form was the nature of point scoring, quoted as 'Goal'; 'Try' and 'Minor' – [G T M] - A goal being a converted try and the be all and end all. A 'minor' was when a defending player grounded the ball over his own touch line in order to stop an attacker getting there first and scoring, although it was part of the scoring system it didn't seem to count for much. Not only that but some of the laws had not been thought out too well, some caused confusion, some were ignored and on top of that, the refereeing left a bit to be desired to the point that all this caused disputes between teams leaving a big question mark on who actually won the game. Another quirk of the early scoring system was that it was left to the captains of each team to come to some agreement as to whether the 'try' was legitimate. Scoring points from tries was not introduced until the late 1880's.

Just to provide a bit of a backdrop to the local scene in times gone by, the population of Whitchurch in 1881 was just 2,752, in 1901 it was 4,865 and a time when the Whitchurch Parish boundary covered Rhiwbina and Birchgrove. So, a few hundred at a rugby match was a good percentage of the local population. In 2011 the population of Whitchurch was 14,270.

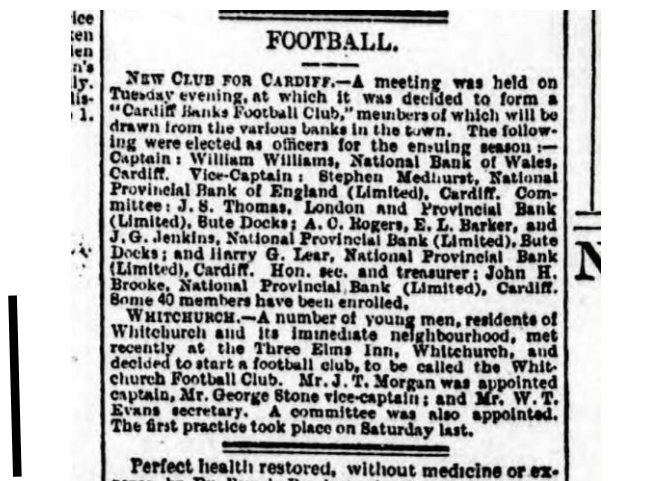
The Whitchurch RFC website dates the club's origin as 1885, what follows adds to the dating evidence and to the overall history and heritage of sport in our village, 'warts 'n all'. We'll read about the highs and lows; the 'pleasant' and 'unpleasant' games; how our village team got on against teams from the larger towns; the status reached and the esteem once held; the struggles (even playing two matches on the same day -1897) and finally, the names of those that represented the club over 100 years ago, once consigned to history, but, now brought back from the past, to the present, what would they have thought to know that their exploits back then would be viewed over 120 years later by their descendants? Was your family amongst them?

One final thing to remember throughout, these men were all working men, some of them in labour intensive jobs, working shifts, some probably working weekends, not much in the way of time off and holidays, all trying to put bread on the tableRead on.....

From the outset, Whitchurch rugby got off to a good competitive start, having a large squad of good players. This in itself tends to suggest that the team / club existed, however informal, well before its recognised start date. It's difficult to see that the formation of any club just happened overnight considering the amount of work and equipment required, but much more likely that they had played 'friendly' matches on an ad hoc / casual basis, the support and success leading them to establish themselves as a recognised 'club'.

1885

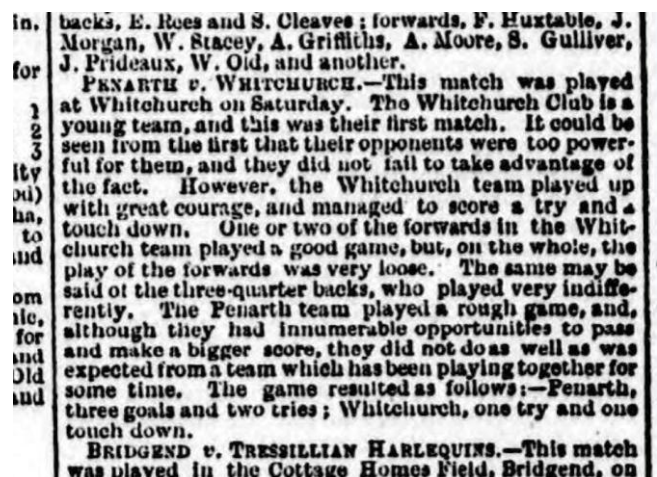
Regardless, here we have it..... history..... from the outset, as published in The Western Mail on 24th September 1885, in time for the new season....



The Parish of Whitchurch at that time covered a large area (parts of Llandaff North, Rhiwbina and Birchgrove) and here we get to know that the meeting was held in The Three Elms and we also know who the first 'movers and shakers' were and it seems that they had just held their first training session a few days earlier.

From here, things moved fast, because in a matter of weeks they were going to get tested.....

On 27th October 1885 The Western Mail reported on their first match and it was away at Penarth....



A commendable performance under the circumstances with some useful experience gained for what was to come.

On 3rd Nov 1885 The Evening Express published the result and the team members of an early match against Taffs Well although it proved to be a difficult afternoon for our boys, it's all the more strange because the Taffs Well RFC website suggests that they themselves were formed in 1887:

King, J. Pickford, R. Angove, J. Spear, P. Jackson, D. Pergram, J. Love, and B. Toy.

TAFF'S WELL V. WHITCHURCH.—This match was played at Taff's Well, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by one drop goal (by D. Edwards), two tries (by J. Griffiths and A. D. Richards), and six touches down to nil. The following were the teams:—*Taff's Well.*—Back, Jonah Porter; three-quarter backs, C. E. Richards (captain), D. Edwards, A. D. Richards, and J. B. Matthew; half-backs, Jesse Porter and W. J. Davies; forwards, Hopkins, Jenkins, Griffiths, Gould, Williams, Morgan, Rowlands, and Fawks.

Whitchurch.—Back, J. Reed; three-quarter backs, W. H. Lewis, T. Evans, and E. Lewis; half-backs, Davies and Lewis; forwards, Jones, Wm. Williams, Davies, Lloyd, White (captain), Davies, Edward Williams, Gitton, and Tucket. Umpires, Messrs J. Morgan and T. Edwards.

On 9th November 1885 The South Wales Daily News gave the results of a match against Tongwynlais
Whitchurch v. Tongwynlais

Played at the ground of the latter on Saturday and resulted in a victory for Whitchurch by two tries to one try (disputed)".

In the same paper another report was published "**Whitchurch 2nds v. Canton 2nds** –

Played at Whitchurch", a match won by Canton.

Surprising to know then that so early on in their formation Whitchurch could field a 2nd team and you have to wonder where this game took place.

The following week they were up against Bute Rovers, 16th November 1885, reported by The South Wales Echo

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WIN FOR THE NORTH JUNIORS BY A GOAL, 5 TOUCHES-DOWN, and 1 touch-in-goal to 1 touch-in-goal and 1 touch-down. The try was got by W. Williams and converted by S. Banbury.

BUTE ROVERS V. WHITCHURCH.—This match was played on Saturday at Whitchurch before a fair concourse of spectators, the Rovers winning by two goals and one touch-down to two touches-in-goal and one touch-down. For Whitchurch Morecambe, George, Evans, and White played well, and the same may be said of C. W. Evans, McAuliffe, Arman, Douglas, Sullivan, and Parker for the Rovers.

CARDIFF CRUSADERS V. COWBRIDGE.—These teams met at Cardiff on Saturday, to try conclusions. The ground was in a bad state from recent rains. It was evident from the kick off that the visitors could stand no chance, the ball being continually in their 25. The Crusaders played a good game throughout, their

On 24th Nov 1885 The South Wales Daily News reported on a 'trial match' against Cardiff Harlequins which didn't last to the final whistle.

CARDIFF HARLEQUINS v WHITCHURCH.

Trial match was played at Whitchurch on Saturday, and resulted in a draw in favour of the home team. Whitchurch were very strong in their forwards, their play being particularly good but the Harlequins played a very fair game. Unfortunately, soon after half-time one of the Whitchurch three-quarter backs made a splendid run and, falling on the visitor's goal line, caused a maul. This annoyed the Harlequins very much, and Vivian, their captain, persuaded them to leave the field. This ended the game 15 minutes before time.

CARDIFF HARLEQUINS 2ND v. WHITCHURCH.—This match was played at Whitchurch on Saturday, and resulted in favour for the Harlequins. W. Decandia obtained a try for the winners, for whom also R. Williams exhibited some good kicking.

Having already played Taffs Well away, the return game happened on 5th December 1885, but, it didn't do much to build lasting playing ties (The Weekly Mail)....

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by John Davis for Taffs Well. The score stood at half-time: Ystrad, one try, two touches-down, and one touch-in-goal to one try for Penygraig.

WHITCHURCH v. TAFF'S WELL.—This match was played at Whitchurch on Saturday. The play, owing to a very unpleasant incident, came to an abrupt conclusion, and it was decided that the result should be a draw.

LLANELLY v. LAMPETER COLLEGE.—These clubs met at Stradev Park on Saturday last, and engaged in a con-

On 8th December 1885 The South Wales Echo published a brief account on a match with Machen with quite a few changes in the team, but at least both sides seemed to get along OK:

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WHITCHURCH v. MACHEN.—This match was played at Machen on Saturday last, and after a well-contested game resulted in a win for the visitors by one try to two touches down. The try was obtained by Thomas Evans. For the Whitchurch team, E. Lewis put in some of his fine dashing runs, and tried very hard to get over the line, but, owing to the slippery state of the field, was prevented from doing so. G. White and G. Powell also showed some remarkably good play. After the game the visitors were entertained to a capital spread provided for them by the Machen team. The following were the teams:—*Whitchurch*—D Stone, back; E. Lewis, J. George, W. H. Lewis, three-quarter backs; G. Powell; J. H. Lewis, half-backs; G. White (captain), — Fragment, G. Bennett, T. Evans, W. H. Norton, T. H. Davis, W. Williams, T. Davis, and E. Williams, forwards.

Machen—P. Rowlands, back; G. Green, C. Green, and W. Williams, three-quarter-backs; G. Jenkins and T. Harris, half-backs; D. Green, W. Davis, J. Stephens, B. Vivian, G. Morgan, F. Boyton, and S. Davis. Messrs Reed and James officiated as umpires.

LLANDOVERY SCHOOL v. CHRIST'S COLLEGE,

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This game was also reported by The Weekly Mail on 12th December (1885) again emphasising the Whitchurch win and the spirit in which it was played.

try for Usk, but the angle being a difficult one, the major point was not scored.

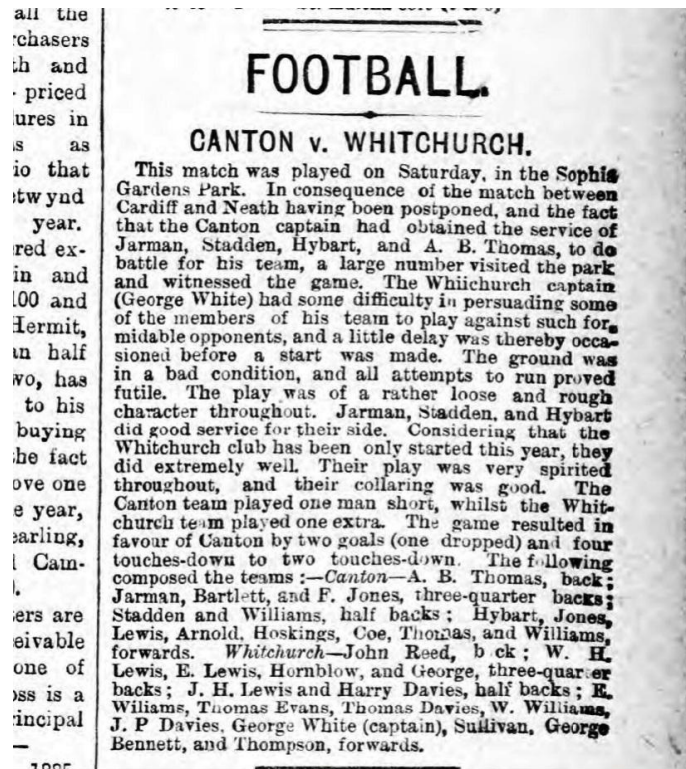
WHITCHURCH v. MACHEN.—A match between teams representing these places was played at Machen on Saturday, and, after a well-contested game, resulted in favour of the visitors by one goal to three touches down. The teams dined together in the evening.

LLANELLY TUESDAY TEAM v. LLANGENNECH.—The return match between these teams was played at the Stradev Park, Llanelly, on Tuesday afternoon, resulting in a win for the "Tuesday" by one goal, three tries, and

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So far this shows us that the team were suitably well organised to have successfully travelled some distance to an away game and were well looked after when they got there. Not only that but the club had sufficient status to play against a side such as Machen and have the game reported in a local newspaper, however brief it might have been.

Here's another report which tells us a lot more about the teams at that time. It was a game played at Sophia Gardens against Canton published in the South Wales Echo on 14th December 1885 and required a bit of negotiation before a ball was kicked, Canton having a few 'ringers' in their team:



So, the boys did well being a 'new' team and up against some seasoned players.

On 22nd December 1885 The South Wales Daily News reported the result of a match played at Ely, Whitchurch having played Ely Rovers..... "and resulted in a win for the Rovers by one goal, two tries and three minors to one try and one minor. The game was well contested".

Within a week, 1sts and 2nds were further tested, at home against Tongwynlais with the 2nds having played against Pentre on the Saturday and also against College Rovers on Christmas Day, reported in The Western Mail on 28th December 1885



Within days, the club played again, with the season just a few months old, matching the life of the club, it was a baptism of fire. This time a Christmas match against Cardiff 3rds, played at the old Cardiff Arms Park and reported in The South Wales Echo on 28th December 1885, a match that was to build a strong relationship with Cardiff RFC over the coming seasons.

respectively. The Docks played a brilliant game.
CARDIFF 3RD V. WHITCHURCH.—This match was played on Saturday, in the Cardiff Arms Park. The game was favourable to the home team throughout, though the Whitchurch men played very well considering that they are quite a new team. The passing was very random and careless on both sides, Cardiff especially making long and useless passes, thus losing considerable ground. The forwards were pretty evenly matched, and pushed well, the Whitchurch men being especially fond of "rushing." At the beginning of the game a try was almost immediately gained for Cardiff by Davies. The forwards of the visitors then rushed the ball down to the Cardiff quarters and kept it there for a long time. After half-time both sides played better, the activity of the forwards continually changing the aspect of the game. Yorath gained a second try for Cardiff by a splendid pass from A. Davies, which was converted into a goal. The visitors then played a very fast game, and ultimately secured a try. The game resulted in a victory for Cardiff by a goal and a try and three touches down to one try and a touch down. The teams were:—*Cardiff 3rd*—Spray, back; E. Morse, Loxdale, H. Williams, and F. Jones, three-quarters; A. Arthurs and A. Davies, half-backs; Nash, Kelly, Stibbs, Milward, Ferguson, J. Arman, Horser, and C. Emery, forwards. *Whitchurch*: T. Reed, back; W. H. Lewis, D. Lewis, D. Padley, and D. Stone, three-quarter backs; J. H. Lewis and J. George, half backs; G. White, T. Evans, W. Williams, H. Shepland, W. T. Norton, T. Davies, E. Donnel, and J. Morgan, forwards. Umpires, E. W. Mumford and S. Jones. Referee—W. Shepherd.
LLANELLY 2ND XV. V CARDIFF PRESILLIANS.—Played on the Stradev Grounds, Llanelly, on Saturday

1886

A derby match was played early in the year The Western Mail on 18th January 1886 reported that Whitchurch had drawn away at Llandaff "after an excellent game", while the 2nds drew away at Taffs Well 2nds "after a well contested game", "Shapland, H. Evans and W. Lloyd dribbled well".

On the 9th February 1886 The Western Mail reported that Whitchurch 2nd XV had 'vaguely' drawn with Llandaff 2nd XV, "each team scoring a try and several touches down".

On 27th February 1886 The South Wales Echo's sports page showed a brief bulletin on the Whitchurch vs Loudoun game, Loudoun winning by one goal and two tries to two minors.

On the 8th March 1886, The Western Mail published a brief report on the club's away match against Taff Vale Wanderers, both teams being listed.

with Neath Second Fifteen by three tries.
TAFF VALE WANDERERS FIRST FIFTEEN V. WHITCHURCH FIRST FIFTEEN.—This match was played in the Recreation Ground on Saturday, resulting in an easy victory for the Wanderers by one goal, four tries, and four touches down to one try for Whitchurch. The tries were obtained by R. Watkins (2), A. Green (1), S. Perryman (1), and D. Stone (1). The teams were:—*Wanderers*: H. Grist, full-back; J. Tabor (captain), D. Stone, and E. Emery, three-quarter-backs; S. Perryman, E. Jones, and C. Jones, half-backs; W. L. Morgan, R. Watkins, J. M'Evoy, E. Owens, A. Green, A. Marsh, F. Pegler, and T. Elias, forwards. *Whitchurch*: J. Reed, full-back; W. H. Lewis, G. Bennett, and E. Lewis, three-quarter-backs; J. H. Lewis and W. White, half-backs; W. Norton, T. Evans, W. Williams, E. Williams, W. Inder, E. Evans, T. Evans, and W. Evans, forwards.
CARDIFF HARLEQUINS V. MAINDEE (MON.).—This match was played at Maindee on Saturday in a perfect quag-

Towards the end of the season Whitchurch played away at Llandaff reported by The Weekly mail on 20th March 1886

<p>and D. Howells came more frequently into notice. the match was a closely-contested one in commendable spirit. The umpires were Messrs. W. T. Davies and D. Davies; the referee was Mr. G. P. Lewis.</p> <p>NEATH HARLEQUINS v. KENSINGTON F.C., SWANSEA.—This match was played on the Recreation Grounds, Swansea, on Saturday afternoon, and resulted in a win for the visitors by one try and three touches down to <i>nil</i>.</p> <p>PENYGRAIG v. YSTRAD.—A match was played between these teams at Penygraig on Saturday, and ended in a win for the home team by one goal and one try to <i>nil</i>.</p> <p>LLANDAFF v. WHITCHURCH.—This match was played at Llandaff on Saturday, and after a hotly-contested game resulted in a draw. For Llandaff A. B. Thomas put in some good sprints, but was unable to score in consequence of the good collaring of the Whitchurch team. For the latter George Stone, George Bennett, W. Norton, and E. Lewis played a good game.</p> <p>CANTON v. ROATH.—This match was played in the Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, on Saturday. The game resulted in a win for Canton by one goal to <i>nil</i>.</p>	<p>month for the half a</p> <p>1</p> <p>BC 47</p> <p>BC 91</p> <p>If the the y boxes. dema</p> <p>THI</p> <p>Very the su compe</p>
<p>CRICKET.</p>	

In the close season things continued unabated with an AGM being held and reported in The South Wales Daily News on 16th July 1886 with The Three Elms remaining as hosts and an expanding list of committed men, the secretary / treasurer living just a stone's throw away..

<p>services rendered during the last seven years at the above place of worship. The chair was occupied by the Rev D. Richards, and addresses were delivered by Mr Alfred Thomas, M.P., and others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHITCHURCH.</p> <p>FOOTBALL.—A meeting of the members of the Whitchurch Football Club was held at the Three Elms Inn, Whitchurch, on Tuesday last, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—Captain of the 1st fifteen, Mr David Stone; vice-captain, Mr Wm. Humphrey Lewis; captain of 2nd fifteen, Mr Wm. White; vice-captain, Mr Thos. Thomas; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr W. J. Evans, Island Cottage, Whitchurch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COWBRIDGE.</p> <p>WEDDING, KEEPER, AND ENGAGEMENT RINGS, at Tainsh Bros., 5, High-street, Cardiff 77187.</p>	<p>the above place of worship. The chair was occupied by the Rev D. Richards, and addresses were delivered by Mr Alfred Thomas, M.P., and others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHITCHURCH.</p> <p>FOOTBALL.—A meeting of the members of the Whitchurch Football Club was held at the Three Elms Inn, Whitchurch, on Tuesday last, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—Captain of the 1st fifteen, Mr David Stone; vice-captain, Mr Wm. Humphrey Lewis; captain of 2nd fifteen, Mr Wm. White; vice-captain, Mr Thos. Thomas; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr W. J. Evans, Island Cottage, Whitchurch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COWBRIDGE.</p> <p>WEDDING, KEEPER, AND ENGAGEMENT RINGS, at Tainsh Bros., 5, High-street, Cardiff 77187.</p>
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At the beginning of the 1886/87 season it seems that Whitchurch were now a well established club, so much so that they were an integral part of the Cardiff and District Union and not just that but had a representative member (Lewis of Whitchurch) on the committee of a new charity challenge cup offered by a Cardiff gun maker, a Mr Page Wood, reported in The South Wales Echo on 8th September 1886:

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FOOTBALL.

THE PROPOSED CARDIFF DISTRICT CHALLENGE CUP.

A meeting of hon. secretaries and representatives of the junior football clubs of Cardiff and district was held at the Philharmonic Restaurant on Tuesday. The meeting had been convened by Mr A. J. Davies, hon. secretary of the Cardiff Harlequins' Football Club, for the purpose of taking into consideration the advisability of accepting the offer recently made by Mr Page Wood, gunmaker, Wood-street, of a challenge cup to be competed for by local football clubs, the premier, or Cardiff Club, being of course debarred from the competition. Mr A. J. Davies presided, and representatives from the following clubs were present:—Cardiff United, Cardiff Harlequins, Taff's Well, Pontypridd, Electric, Roath, Cardiff Crusaders, Penarth, St. Mary's, Roath Rangers, Whitchurch, Grangetown, Ely Rovers, Canton Crusaders, and Cardiff Rovers.—At the outset the Chairman explained the object for which the meeting had been called, and expressed himself strongly in favour of Mr Wood's offer being accepted. In the course of a desultory conversation which ensued it became apparent that all present favoured the idea, and ultimately a resolution, proposed by Mr Crawley (Cardiff Crusaders), and seconded by Mr Brace (Ely Rovers), to the effect that Mr Wood's offer be accepted, and that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded him, was unanimously carried.—The question as to what clubs should be eligible to take part in the competitions was next discussed; and, on the proposition of Mr Cross (Cardiff United), seconded by Mr Matthew (Taff's Well), it was decided to fix upon a radius of six miles of Cardiff, and that no club outside this limit should be eligible to enter. It was further agreed that the ties should be played off on Saturdays, except in the case of clubs who might prefer and arrange to play on some other day, and an unanimous desire was expressed that any gate money accruing from the games should be devoted to local charities. The arrangement of all the details was, however, left to a committee consisting of the following:—Messrs Cross (Cardiff United), Crawley (Cardiff Crusaders), Hayes (Penarth), Lewis (Whitchurch), Smailes (Roath Rangers), Brace (Ely Rovers), and A. J. Davies (Cardiff Harlequins), the latter being appointed hon. sec. This committee will meet on Tuesday evening next, at 7.30.

BRYNHFRYD CLUB.—At the annual meeting of the above club, held at the Landore Coffee Tavern, the following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—Captain, A. Williams; vice-captain, John H.

Then, the battle lines were drawn, on 25th September 1886 the cup committee had met and this report appeared in The Weekly Mail making the bold statement that "no player be allowed to play for more than one club and he must be a *bona fide* member of that club". This point is emphasised simply because there seemed to be a lot of players conveniently and easily moving between clubs at that time

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before the call of time, the scores reading at the close:—Llanelli, two tries and two touches down; Harlequins, one touchdown.

CARDIFF DISTRICT CHALLENGE CUP.

A meeting of representatives of the various clubs in the Cardiff district was held at the Philharmonic Restaurant on Tuesday evening for the purpose of receiving and consulting upon the resolutions proposed by the committee formed to carry on the competition for the cup so generously presented by Mr. T. Page Wood, of Cardiff. Mr. A. J. Davies, secretary, was elected chairman, and there were also present representatives from the following clubs:—The Cardiff United, Llandaff, Roath, Roath Rangers, Penarth, Grangetown, Whitchurch, Taff's Well, Cardiff Crusaders, Cardiff Harlequins, Canton Crusaders, Ely Rovers, and Cardiff Rovers. After much consideration, resolutions were passed to the effect that no playing members of the Cardiff Football Club be permitted to play for any club in the cup ties; clubs competing for the Welsh cup shall not be eligible to compete for the district cup—this resolution is to be submitted to the donor of the cup before a definite settlement is arrived at, eighteen votes at the meeting being for the resolution and five against—first round of cup ties to be played on ground mutually arranged, and subsequent matches or rounds to be played on grounds to be arranged by the committee. An entrance fee of five shillings was fixed, with an annual subscription of five shillings. The rules of the South Wales Cup competition were accepted with but few amendments; the principal being that no player be allowed to play for more than one club, and he must be a *bona fide* member of that club before he is permitted to compete in the cup ties; the first match not to be played before the 1st of January.—This concluded the business of the evening, and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

SWANSEA POSSIBLES V. PROBABLES.

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The first game of the 1886/87 season was a 'warm up', a 1sts vs 2nds fixture reported in The South Wales Daily News on 4th October 1886, resulting "in a win for the 1sts by 4 tries and several minors to nil"

Just to give you a 'feel for things' this how local papers published up and coming fixtures. 9th October 1886 The South Wales Daily News and it tells us the types of teams that were playing at that time with Whitchurch figuring prominently on the list:

MOON IS BEAMING, LOVE.	
FOOTBALL.	
LOCAL FIXTURES.	
Oct. 9th,	at Cardiff, Cardiff v. Cardiff Harlequins.
"	at Cardiff, St. Andrew's v. Cardiff Harlequins 2nd.
"	at Grangetown, Whitchurch 2nd v. Grange-town 2nd.
"	at Whitchurch, Grangetown v. Whitchurch.
"	at Pontypridd, Newport v. Pontypridd.
"	at Llanelly, Swansea v. Llanelly.
"	at Newport, Cardiff 2nd v. Junior Conservative Gymnasium.
"	at Swansea, North v. Swansea "A" team.
"	at Swansea, Skewen v. Swansea 2nd.

SWANSEA V. LLANELLY.—This match will be played at Llanelly to-day, Saturday, when a close and exciting contest is anticipated. The following are the selected players:—*Swansea*—Back, E. Thorogood: three-quarter

Reports coming thick and fast now, on the 11th October 1886 The South Wales Daily News reported on the club's win over Grangetown:

touch-in-goal. Thus the match ended in a victory for the Rangers by a try.	Se how was half for imp off. hav a ke sho part the mos of E una the
WHITCHURCH V. GRANGETOWN.—Played at Whitchurch, when the home team won by 3 tries and 1 touch-down to 1 touch-down. The tries were obtained by J. Stephens, T. Hicks, and G. Bennett. Names:— <i>Whitchurch</i> —Back, J. Reed; three-quarters, D. Stone, W. H. Colley, W. H. Lewis, G. Bennett; half, T. Hicks, T. Phillips; forwards, T. Davies, G. White, E. Lewis, T. Phillips, F. Evans, J. Stephens, W. J. Norton, W. Jones. <i>Grangetown</i> —T. Partridge, back; three-quarters, J. Jones, B. Jack, H. Mapleson, A. Cornish; half, O. Price, D. Howard; forwards, W. Howard, Manfield, J. Hiers, J. Potter, Beard, Coombs, D. Davies, G. J. Hodson.	
CANTON CRUSADERS V. CARDIFF BOROUGH.—Played at Sophia Gardens on Saturday, when the game had	

On 16th October 1886 The South Wales Echo reported that Whitchurch drew away at Penarth, but the South Wales Daily News on 18th October 1886 reported that "Whitchurch won by one try and two touches down to two touches down". Not to be outdone The Weekly Mail reported it differently again on 23rd October 1886 suggesting that, in fact, it was a draw "in favour of Whitchurch".... ("You pays your money, you takes your choice").

for Grangetown by one try, four touches down, and one touch in goal to nil. The try was obtained by W. Howard.
WHITCHURCH V. PENARTH.—These teams met at Penarth on Saturday. Immediately after the kick off, both teams set to work in right earnest. The ball travelled all over the ground, and every effort was made to score. The game all through was of a rough character. The Whitchurch team expected an ignominious defeat, but they were quite equal to their opponents, and the game ended in a draw rather in their favour.
SWANSEA V. LLANOVERY COLLEGE.—This match was played on Saturday on the ground of the latter, and resulted in an easy victory to the visitors by two goals, two tries, to nil.
MORFA ROVERS (LLANELLY) V. LLANOVERY TOWN.—This match was played on Saturday on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by

As draw specialists Whitchurch kept the record going with another this time against Cardiff United, reported in The Western Mail on 25th October 1886.

such an extent as to make them rivals:

The match played on Saturday at Whitchurch between the Cardiff United and the Whitchurch-torians was, I hear, a very evenly-contested game. The Cardiff men were much heavier than their opponents, but play was anything but scientific—a rough, forward game being played. The first half of the game the Cardiffians played against the wind, and were penned nearly the whole of the time in their 25. The second half the home team had to face the breeze, and a like result was witnessed, the game ending in a draw:

I have received the following communication:—
“Dear ‘Touchstone,’—The football community of

Not so sure about the ‘Whitchurchtonians’ label, the reporter couldn’t have been a local lad.

The following week came an even more detailed report on the Whitchurch vs Cardiff United match, published in The Weekly Mail on 30th October 1886.

Referee, W. Betts.

CARDIFF UNITED v. WHITCHURCH.—This match was played at Whitchurch on Saturday. The Cardiff captain kicked off against the wind. The Whitchurch backs failing to return a scrimmage took place in their 25. The Whitchurch forwards, however, who are a stiff lot, soon worked the ball back, and to stop them from scoring their opponents kicked the ball into touch close to the line. After the throw out the Cardiff forwards worked hard to relieve their goal, but the home forwards would not be denied, and the United were obliged to touch down in self-defence. The oval having been again set rolling, Stone, the Whitchurch captain, picked it up, and, after a good run, was upset near the visitors' goal. The Cardiff men now began to warm to their work, and played together right earnestly to get the ball out of their 25. After a series of scrimmages the ball was handed to Mills, who sprinted, and was not upset until he was in the Whitchurch 25. The home forwards, however, soon worked the leather back, and the centre of the ground for some little time was the scene of hostilities. The Cardiff goal was shortly after invaded, and the visitors were again obliged to touch down. The ball having again been started, the Cardiff forwards dribbled it to the centre, and soon after half-time was called. Having changed ends the oval was again set going. The Whitchurch men had now to play against the wind, and, although the ball was kept for nearly the whole of the time in their 25, as was the case with the visitors in the first half of the game, they managed to prevent their opponents from scoring. Scrimmage after scrimmage took place in the home 25, and by some good dribbling on the part of the Whitchurch forwards, in which Lewis, Evans, and Norton distinguished themselves, the ball would now and again be taken into the Cardiff 25, but it was soon returned. The Whitchurch men managed to keep their goal intact, and the game ended in a draw, both sides having scored two minor points. The following were the teams:—*Cardiff United*: Turner, back; J. Hughes, Gerrish, J. Mills, and F. Richards, three-quarter backs; George Richards and G. Powell, half-backs; Moses, Atty, “Williams,” Lloyd, J. Pike, Widdowson, Watkins, and Emery, forwards. *Whitchurch*: Reed, back; D. Stone (captain), “Evans,” Bennett, and Colly, three-quarter backs; Hicks and Phillips, half-backs; Evans, Jones, Davies, Thomas Davies, George White, E. Lewis, Brain, and Norton, forwards.

PONTYPRIDD v. PENARTH.—This match was played at Penarth on Saturday. The home team captain won the

On 1st November 1886 The South Wales Daily News reported briefly, but favourably on a 2nd team fixture against Richmond

... touches down to nil. The try scored for the Harbour Lights 2nd was obtained by William E Gwyn (three-quarter), which he converted.
WHITCHURCH 2ND V. RICHMOND.—This match was played at Whitchurch on Saturday, and after a pleasant game ended in a victory for Whitchurch by one try to nil.
CANTON CRUSADERS 2ND, XV. V. ROATH JUNIORS.—

On the 6th November 1886 we see the first sign of Whitchurch RFC participating within the Cardiff District Football Union when the Weekly Mail printed the draw for the Cardiff District Charity Cup with Whitchurch being drawn against Cardiff Harlequins in the first round.

On the 8th November 1886 The South Wales Echo published the result of the Whitchurch 2nds match against Llandaff 2nds played at Llandaff, Whitchurch winning by two tries and four minors to nil, the tries being scored by G. Martin and W. White.

On the 15th November 1886 Whitchurch 1sts played at home against Roath resulting in a draw while the 2nds played Roath 2nds away at Sophia Gardens with honours even in that game.

The 2nd XV seemed to get a fair amount of publicity at this time also and this report dated 22nd November 1886 in the South Wales Daily News paints a picture of a tough afternoon for them, but a wins a win.

Phillips, Purnell, A. Jones, A. N. Other.
CHARLES STREET 2ND XV. V HIGHER GRADE.— Played in the Sophia Gardens Field and ended in a win for Charles-street by 2 tries 5 touches down to nil. The tries were obtained by Nicholls and Granger. Rees and Bowden played well.
WHITCHURCH 2ND XV. V. LONGCROSS.—This match was played in the Barracks Field, and after a rough game resulted in a win for the Whitchurch by one goal and one try (obtained by T. Phillips and R. Nicholas) to nothing. The teams were :—*Whitchurch* :—Back, J. Reed ; three-quarter backs, W. White, R. Cocks, W. H. Colley, and R. Nicholas ; half-backs, T. Phillips and Hicks ; forwards, E. Lewis, J. Brain, T. H. Davies, F. Adams, R. Hole, W. Jones, G. Stephens, and T. Thomas. *Longcross* :—Back, R. Smith ; three-quarter backs, T. Bennett, W. Kennard, W. Jones and J. Thomas ; half-backs J. Frazer and J. Clatworthy ; forwards J. Davies, J. Bennett, F. Clatworthy, D. Jones, J. Cosslett, L. Jones, D. Phillips, and J. Phillips.

Here's one that's a bit of an eye opener, it seems that the village was developing quite a strong rugby base. This extract is dated 22nd November 1886 in The South Wales Echo.

one goal (by J. Rosser), four tries, and two minors to one try.
MOUNTAIN ASH 2ND V. DUFFRYN RANGERS.—Played at Mountain Ash, and resulted in a victory for the home team by one goal, five tries, and three touches down to nil.
MELINGRIFFITH RANGERS V. WHITCHURCH STARS.—Played at Whitchurch, and ended in a victory for the Stars by one goal to two tries and three minors. E. Huzzey and E. Lewis played a good game for the losing side.

On 27th November 1886 The South Wales Echo provided a brief report on Whitchurch winning at home against Cathays, with players from both teams being named.

A match was played at the Barracks Field, and resulted in a win for the Board School by one goal, from a try, by Percy House, two tries, two touches in goal, and three touchdowns to nil.

WHITCHURCH V. CATHAYS.—This match was played at Whitchurch, and, after a well-contested game, ended in a victory for the home team by one goal, one try, and one minor to nil. The tries were obtained by T. Davies and W. H. Colley. The players were:—*Whitchurch*: Back, J. Reed; three-quarter-backs, C. W. Evans, D. Stone, W. H. Lewis, and G. Bennett; half-backs, T. Hicks and H. Hicks; forwards, W. H. Colley, William Jones, William Norton, Tom Davies, Tom Evans, H. Evans, George White, and W. Lloyd. *Cathays*: Back, A. Blackmore; three-quarter backs, E. Evans, E. Emery, J. Mills, and R. Watkins; half-backs, E. Owen and W. Steeds; forwards, W. Jenkins, T. Wilcox, A. Marsh, J. Davies, J. Wills, J. Macaboy, H. Williams, and T. Jenkins.

PENARTH HARLEQUINS V. GRANGETOWN 3RDS.—Played at Penarth, and ended in a victory for the home team by one goal, three tries, and three touchdowns to nil.

LLANDAFF V. ELECTRICS.—This match was played off on the Electric ground, and resulted in a surprisingly easy win for Llandaff by four converted

On the same day (27th Nov) The Weekly Mail published a report on Whitchurch 2nds winning at the Barracks Field against Longcross, one goal and one try to nil. While this might seem insignificant, it's worth mentioning the 2nd XV because it tells us that Whitchurch rugby club was a thriving club and that it was sufficiently strong enough to field a 2nd XV and not only that, but, that they were strong enough to win games.

On 6th December 1886 The South Wales Echo reported that Whitchurch had played Maindee (Newport) with the Newport team winning by "four minors to nil", but, the Western Mail reporting that Whitchurch "drew with Maindee", a case of no 'goals' or 'tries' having been scored.

This fixture list published on 11th December 1886 in The Weekly Mail shows us just how Whitchurch was viewed within the newspapers, an outlying club beyond the boundary of Cardiff.

The matches which will take place in South Wales on Saturday are the following:—	
ABERDARE.	Aberdare Crusaders v. Penygraig.
CARDIFF.	Cardiff v. Llanelly.
"	Cardiff "A" Team v. Cardiff United (Second).
"	Penarth (Second) v. St. Andrew's.
"	Cardiff Crusaders v. Pontypridd.
"	Cardiff Crusaders (Second) v. Albion (Newport), Second.
"	Cardiff Harlequins v. University College.
"	Charles-street Rangers v. Hearts of Oak.
"	Roath Rangers (Second) v. Whitchurch (Second).
"	Roath v. Ely Rovers.
"	Canton Crusaders (Second) v. Grangetown (Second).
"	Longcross v. Grangetown.
LLANELLY.	Llanelly (Second) v. Cardiff (Second).
NEATH.	Neath v. Newport.
NEWPORT.	Newport (Second) v. Cardiff United.
"	Newport Junr. C. G. v. Oakfields.
"	Canton Crusaders v. Hearts of Oak.
PENARTH.	Penarth v. Llandaff.
PONTYPRIDD.	Pontypridd (Second) v. Cardiff Harlequins (Second).
SWINTON.	Swansea v. Swinton.
TAFF'S WELL.	St. Mary's v. Taff's Well.
WHITCHURCH.	Whitchurch v. Roath Rangers.
* * *	
With the Swansea team away the only matches	

On the 13th December 1886 The South Wales Echo published this brief account of a match against Roath Rangers, but with a different opinion between the sides over the score:

Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in St. Andrews scoring a try (disputed) and a touch-down to a touch-down.
WHITCHURCH V. ROATH RANGERS.—Played at Whitchurch. The home team claim a victory by one goal, one try, and six minors to nil, but the Rangers give the scores as one disputed goal, one try, and four touches down for Whitchurch, to nil.
TREFORREST CRUSADERS V. PONTYPRIDD GRAIG SCHOOL.—On the ground of the former. The Crusaders won by one goal, three touches down, and six minors. A. D.

On 20th December 1886 The South Wales Daily News reported that Cardiff Crusaders teams had failed to turn up for matches away against Whitchurch 1sts and at home against the 2nds.

The Weekly Mail on 4th December 1886 reported on a match against Cathays, the faster forwards of Whitchurch giving them the edge:

Hybart, G. Robins, C. Emery, F. Buse, R. Lougher, Bevan, and Goodfellow.
CARDIFF CRUSADERS V. GRANGETOWN.—This match was played on Saturday, the Crusaders winning by one goal and three minors to nil. Gorman made the try.
CATHAYS V. WHITCHURCH.—These teams met at Whitchurch on Saturday. The game throughout was a warmly contested one. The play was principally forward, and, although the visitors were the heavier team, the home forwards rushed them almost as they chose. Both in the first and second half the scene of hostilities was the visitors' 25, and, although they made strenuous efforts to relieve their goal, the home forwards would not be denied, and the game ended in a win for the Whitchurch team by one goal, one try, and a touch-down, to nil. The tries were obtained by T. Davies and W. H. Colley. The players were:—*Whitchurch*: Back, J. Reed; three quarter backs, C. W. Evans, D. Stone, W. H. Lewis, and G. Bennett; half-backs, T. Hicks and H. Hicks; forwards, W. H. Colley, William Jones, William Norton, Tom Davies, Tom Evans, H. Evans, George White, and W. Lloyd.
Cathays: Back, A. Blackmore; three-quarter backs, E.

1887

On 15th January 1887 the fixture schedule had Whitchurch down to play Grangetown at home.

Here's a good report, it was published in The Western Mail on 24th January 1887 giving good coverage of a tough Whitchurch match against Harlequins in the cup although Whitchurch lost, the score leaves us very confused:

A. H. tackled repeated another as to A. beyond Jordan's line. Gould hood by ped out, ie home e scrim- tacking. an, and ee kick, pressure ne very trifling orwards ves took back in got the ood deal tackled making led to t to the but did om the rop-out back in sequent e, being i scrim- thrown Jordan, passing

Referee, Mr. R. Grist, Stroud.

CARDIFF DISTRICT CUP TIE.

HARLEQUINS v. WHITCHURCH.—These teams met on Saturday on the ground of the former, at Grangetown, in the first round of the district challenge cup. The ground was in a deplorable condition and rendered play almost impossible. When a player had a good opportunity to make a run he would sink ankle deep in one of the dykes and would come to a standstill. The Harlequins' captain kicked off, and the ball was sent into touch in the Whitchurch 25. After the throw out a series of scrimmages took place near the Whitchurch goal line, and the "Quins" worked the ball over and secured a try, which, however, was not improved upon. The ball was again soon sent rolling, and play settled down in the centre. Bennett was given a pass, and he made a splendid run, but was grassed, or rather "mudded," in the Harlequins' 25. Here a number of scrimmages took place. The Whitchurch forwards at last broke through, and, rushing the ball over the line, the "Quins" were obliged to touch down. The centre of the ground was again the scene of hostilities, and a lot of loose play ensued. A free kick was demanded by Whitchurch, but a lot of ground was lost thereby, the ball being taken into their 25, and they were eventually obliged to touch down. The Whitchurch goal was again invested, but Stone relieved the pressure by a good dribble to the centre. The ball was afterwards rushed from one side to the other. Keepings kicked to near the Whitchurch goal line, and Reed failing to return on account of his eyes being full of mud, the ball was worked over the line and another try was gained. Half time was now called. On play being re-started the Whitchurch forwards, headed by Stephens and Davies, took the ball into the Harlequins' 25, but Williams picked it up, and, by a splendid run, took it to the centre, where he was upset by Bennett. The Harlequins' forwards, however, soon rushed

an. ing try ken bar. to a rds. was diff lay g a r to ebb the me red. ould ere and up, ick, alf, was ort the ily ine, out as. 25. ses-

run, took it to the centre, where he was upset by Bennett. The Harlequins' forwards, however, soon rushed the ball into the Whitchurch 25, and from thence over the line, where a Maul ensued, which resulted in a try, and the major point was this time registered. A series of scrimmages afterwards took place in the centre, but the Whitchurch quarters were again invaded, and, by a bit of good passing between Davies, Keepings, and Jones, another try was obtained for the home team. The oval was afterwards rushed into the Harlequins' 25, but it was soon returned, and a series of scrimmages took place in the Whitchurch 25. One of the Harlequins' backs kicked it over, and a touch down on the part of Whitchurch was the result. Soon after "No side" was called, with the score as follow:—Harlequins, one goal, three tries, and two touches down. Whitchurch, one touch down, or, by points, 30 to 1. The following were the teams:—*Harlequins*: H. Williams, back; A. James, Owen Lewis, W. H. Keepings, and Gwyn May, three-quarter backs; A. Dalrymple and Arthur Davies, half-backs; Evan Williams, N. Ferguson (captain), W. Morgan, A. Naish, H. Griffiths, Bert Duolop, T. Cornish, and C. Hunt, forwards. *Whitchurch*:—J. Reed, back; D. Stone, W. White, W. Norton, and G. Bennett, three-quarter backs; T. Hicks and T. Phillips, half-backs; E. Lewis, J. Stephens, T. Davies, W. Jones, H. Hicks, George White, T. Evans, and T. Davies, forwards.

ROATH v. ELY ROVERS.—This match was played at Penarth on Saturday last, in the presence of a good number of spectators. The game was very well con-

In the early part of the year we get the first sign that the Whitchurch rugby set-up was looking to develop local players above and beyond its senior members and there are signs that a junior team had been formed. This article dated 7th February 1887 was published in The Western Mail and comments on a match between Higher Grade Juniors and Whitchurch Juniors, other such commentaries clearly indicate matches as being school matches and there are reports on Whitchurch School games, but this is not the case here.

down to nil.

PONTYPOOL v. NEWPORT SECOND FIFTEEN.—These teams met on the Polo Ground, Pontypool Road, on Saturday. The match, after a close struggle, ended in a win for Pontypool by one try and two minors to three minors, or one point to nil.

HIGHER GRADE JUNIORS v. WHITCHURCH JUNIORS.—This match was played at the Barracks' Field, Cathays, on Saturday, and ended in a win for the Higher Grade by two goals, two tries (one disputed), and two minors to one minor.

ST. ANDREW'S SECOND FIFTEEN v. TREDEGARVILLE.—This match was played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a win for St. Andrew's by one try and one minor to two minors.

BUTE DOCKS HARLEQUINS v. CHARLES-STREET ROVERS

On the 9th April 1887 The South Wales Echo reported on another drawn game with Whitchurch being home against Roath A (Athletic?) each side scoring 1 goal and 1 try.

As the new season approached, the club held another AGM, reported in The Western Mail on 12th August 1887

WHITCHURCH.

FOOTBALL CLUB.—At a general meeting of the Whitchurch Football Club the following officers were elected for the coming season :—**First Fifteen :** Captain, E. Lewis; vice-captain, J. Reed. **Second Fifteen :** Captain, Thomas Howell; vice-captain, J. Lloyd; hon. sec., W. J. Evans, Island Cottage, Whitchurch.

PARTRIDGE SHOOTING.—Sportsmen wanting Guns, Cartridges, or any Shooting Tackle will find T. Page Wood and Co., Gun Makers, Castle-street, Cardiff, the best. Specialities, our Cartridges. 76344

BEAUFORT.

CHURCH TEA.—The annual tea was held on Thursday in the Gantreff Field, lent by Mr. William

Mr. W. J. Evans continuing with the administrative side of things from his home at Island Cottage.

So, the 1887/88 season commenced with the same level of success as the previous season, with an away win at Maindee (Newport), 3rd October 1887 The South Wales Daily News:

T Thomas, 1; and R. John, 1.

SWANSEA MINOR CUP.—Matches in connection with this competition were played on Saturday at Swansea. Swansea Excelsiors defeated Llanamlet by 2 goals, and 3 tries to nil. Mynyddbach defeated the Rangers by 2 tries to 1 minor.

WHITCHURCH V. MAINDEE.—Played at Maindee, resulting in a win for Whitchurch by 1 goal and a minor to 1 try and a minor. The try was got for Whitchurch by a very smart run on the part of T. O. Lewis, who successfully converted his point.

TAFF'S WELL V. TREFOREST.—Played at Treforest, resulting in a win for Taff's Well by one goal and two tries to eight minors. The tries were obtained by T. Phillips (2) and J. B. Matthews (1).

ABERTILERY V. EBBW VALE.—Played at Abertillery, resulting in a win for the home team by five tries to nil. The tries were obtained by W. Bevan (2), S. Robins (1), C. J. E. Edwards (1), and J. Brown (1).

SWANSEA NATIONAL SCHOOL V. SOMERSET RANGERS.—Played at Swansea Recreation Grounds, and ended in a victory for the former by one goal and one minor

On 11th October 1887 The South Wales Daily News reported that Whitchurch, playing at home, had lost to Maindee (Newport) by 1 goal, 1 minor to a try.

Local rugby was thriving now and on 17th October 1887 The South Wales Daily News published a brief report that Whitchurch Stars had beaten Melingriffith Rovers at the Melingriffith Ground (I wonder if that is where Harlequins now play? The old Elin (Elyn) ground), "four tries and one touch down to nil, T. Brown played well for the winners".

Whitchurch were playing against the likes of Llantrisant and this brief report was published in The South Wales Daily News on 24th October 1887, with a Whitchurch win in an exciting game.

Maindee, resulting in a win for Newport Juniors by 4 goals and 1 try to nil. Richards dropped a goal, Thomas obtained two tries, and R. Dannery and Lloyd 1 each.

WHITCHURCH V. LLANTRISANT.—Played at Whitchurch. An exciting match resulted in a win for the home team by 2 goals and a touch-in-goal to nil.

WHITCHURCH BRITISH SCHOOL V. TAFF'S WELL BRITISH SCHOOL.—Played at Taff's Well on Saturday. The former won by 1 goal, 1 try and a touch-down to nil.

WHITE STARS V. MOSS ROSE 2ND.—Played near the

MONDAY, OCTOBER

In this one the reporter was clearly a tennis player, but it didn't matter too much, Whitchurch losing away to Penarth, 31st October 1887 The South Wales Daily News.

GRANGETOWN 2ND V. PENARTH.—Played in Sophia Gardens. A win for Grangetown 2nd by 2 tries and 4 minors to 1 try and 1 minor. The try getters for Grangetown were:—F. Harvey (1) and D. Davies (1).

PENARTH V. WHITCHURCH.—Played at Penarth, resulting in a win for the home team by 4 goals and 3 tries to love.

RICHMOND (SURREY) V. LIVERPOOL.—The Lancashire Club opened their southern tour at Richmond, in capital weather. Three minutes after the start a neat goal was dropped for Richmond and 15 minutes later they scored a

Another that might cause a few surprises around the village here, it was a brief report on 5th December 1887 in The South Wales Daily News reporting that Philog Rovers had beaten Primrose Hill at the Primrose Hill ground by 1 goal and 2 minors to 1 minor, with Eli Hopkins and Joe Phillips having played well for the Philog. For those not knowing, Primrose Hill was the area around Llandaff North Station and it leaves you wondering where their home pitch would have been.

On 5th December 1887 The South Wales Daily News also reported on a Whitchurch 2nds match loss against Canton 2nds.

and eight minors to nil.
 TREFOREST V. MOUNTAIN ASH.—Played at Treforest, resulting in a win for Mountain Ash by one try to nil.
 YNISPENLLWCH 2ND V. PONTARDAWE 2ND.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the home team by 2 goals to 1 goal.
 CANTON 2ND V. WHITCHURCH 2ND.—Played at Whitchurch, and ended in a win for Canton by 2 tries, 4 minors to 1 try and 1 minor. The tries for Canton were got by J. Jones and G. Evans. Gladstone got the try for Whitchurch.
 LLANELLY 2ND V. MANSELTON.—Played on the Manselton racecourse, Swansea, resulting in a win for the visitors by 1 try and 1 minor to 5 minors.
 SWANSEA CRUSADERS V. PONTARDAWE.—Played at Pontardawe, and ended in a victory for the Crusaders by 3 tries and 2 minors to nil.

As you might expect, things on and off the field didn't often go well and this report (whinge) dated 19th December 1887 in The Western Mail tends to sum up some of the difficulties clubs faced, although in this case the 'hon. sec' seems lucky to have had a considerate referee:

appreciated. Cusse, May, and E. Davies played a splendid forward game.
 * * *
 Mr. H. Carpenter, the hon. secretary of the Penarth team, writes me that his team went to Whitchurch with seven of the usual team missing, and complains that the referee blew the whistle at will, and terminated the game three minutes before time.
 * * *
 The following remarkably honest and outspoken letter from Mr. T. E. Jones, the hon. secretary of the London Welsh, so clearly explains itself that I

1888

What a way to start the new year, a crunch derby match, Whitchurch vs Llandaff at Whitchurch and in fairness, a decent gate too by all accounts, 2nd January 1888 The South Wales Daily News.

... Saints by 1 goal 1 try and 1 touch in goal to 1 try.
T. D. Elliott and Percy J. Thomas got the tries for the Saints

LLANDAFF V. WHI CHURCH - Played at Whitchurch in the presence of a fair number of spectators. Directly after the kick-off, Dan Radley getting possession from a line out, dashed through, after a grand run scored a try. Owing to the difficult angle, the point was not converted. Although the game continued in favour of the city men, they failed to add anything further to their score, and a rather noisy and rough game ended in a victory for Llandaff by a try to nil. *Sides*: - *Llandaff* - Back, L. Howe; three-quarter backs, E. Davies (captain), Dan Radley, A. T. Thomas, and J. Keepings; half backs, D. H. John and T. Evans; forwards, E. Emery, T. Harry, J. Millward, W. Millward, R. Loughor, A. J. Hybart, J. L. Rees, and R. Phillips; umpire, Mr. A. Green. *Whitchurch* - Back, G. White; three-quarter backs, J. Reed, W. Norton, R. Nicholls, and D. Llewellyn; half backs, J. H. Lewis and I. Hicks; forwards, E. Lewis (captain), T. Davis, W. Williams, J. Casey, T. Evans, W. Jones, H. Williams, and T. Hole; umpire, Mr. J. George.

MATDDEE JUNIORS V. BLUE STARS. - Played on the ground of the latter, and ended in a victory for the Juniors by two tries and eight minors to one try and seven minors.

TREPOREST 2ND XV. V. PONTYPRIDD JUNIORS. -

Great to see those players names up in lights, but, who was making all the noise?

January also saw the first round of the new District Challenge Cup in which Whitchurch was drawn against Grangetown and although conditions were good for the game the match itself was marred by disputes with the suggestion that cup committee attend these cup games to ensure fair play. This report was dated 30th January 1888 published in The Western Mail:

Radley, A. B. Thomas, and A. T. Thomas, three-quarter backs; T. Evans and D. H. John, half-backs; E. Hybart, C. Emery, W. Millward, J. Millward, R. Lougher, H. Snel, T. Harry, and J. Keepings, forwards. Referee, Mr. T. Morgan, C.H.F. Club.

WHITCHURCH V. GRANGETOWN. - These teams met at Whitchurch to decide the first tie in the first round of the District Challenge Cup. The weather was charming and the ground in splendid condition. After the kick off play settled down in the visitors' 25, and, although they made strong efforts to relieve the pressure, the home team penned them in the same position for pretty nearly the whole of the first half. Both teams played with much dash, but there was a sad want of combination amongst the Grangetown representatives. The Whitchurch team, on the other hand, showed up much better in this respect. Undoubtedly the best player on the field was Llewellyn, the Whitchurch three-quarter, who picked up very prettily and ran well. Reed, Nicholls, and Davies (forwards) also played a good saving game. In the second half the visitors showed up better, and managed to rush the ball over the home team's goal line and in the scramble to secure a try. This was the only point gained by them throughout the game, whereas the Whitchurchtonians added five touches down to their credit. A series of disputes took place during the progress of the game, and it would be well, in the interests of the pastime, for the committee of the challenge cup to decide to send one or two of their number to every match in connection with the challenge cup to see that each side is given fair play. The result of the game was as follows: - Grangetown, one try; Whitchurch five touches-down, or six points to five. The following were the teams: - *Grangetown*: Harris, back; Humbleston, Partridge, Williams, and Murphy, three-quarter backs; Thomas and White, half-backs; Manfield, Thomas, Jones, Cornish, Hayres, White, Sperrin, and Howard, forwards. *Whitchurch*: White, back; Glendenning, Llewellyn, Nicholls, and Reed, three-quarter backs; W. H. Lewis and T. Hicks, half-backs; W. Jones, E. Lewis, T. Davies, W. Williams, Hale, D. Cox, Casey, and Evans, forwards. Referee, Mr. Sparks, Penarth.

On the face of it for such a young club, this was a good result against The Cheesemen, 5th March 1888 The South Wales Daily News.

tries were obtained by J. Murray (2) and W. Harris. The goal was kicked by T. Forbes.

LLANELLY "A" TEAM V. LLANOVERY SCHOOL.—Played on the Stradey ground, Llanelly, and ended in a win for the "A" team by 5 goals, 4 tries to 1 goal, 1 try.

LLANELLY HARRIERS V. LLANELLY ROVERS.—These teams met at the close of the above match, and the contest ended in a win for the Harriers by 1 dropped goal.

WHITCHURCH V. CAERPHILLY.—Played at Whitchurch, resulting in a win for Whitchurch by 2 tries. Whitchurch had 14 men, of whom several belonged to the second team.

CARDIFF 2ND XV. V. USK.—Fine weather favoured the return match between these teams on Saturday last on the Is and at Usk, and the ground was in very good condition. A large number of spectators were present. The Usk team was fairly representative, but were but in indifferent form in consequence of recent inactivity. The Cardiff team played well throughout the game, their passing being very good. The home team were compelled to play largely on the defensive. The

Reports on Whitchurch games was a regular feature and this match away against Cardiff Harlequins (now the home ground of St Peter's RFC) gives a glimpse of on-field action, 19th March 1888 published in The Western Mail

of a good rush by a cool touch down. Nothing more was scored up to the call of time, leaving Swansea the victors, by a try and a minor to four minors.

HARLEQUINS (CARDIFF) V. WHITCHURCH.

Played on the Harlequins' ground. Davies, the Quins' skipper, kicked off, and play settled down within the visitors' 25, where a series of scrimmages took place. The Whitchurch forwards gradually worked the oval down to the centre, whence Norton kicked to the 'Quins' 25. After the kick out some loose play ensued, and hostilities were soon afterwards waged in the centre. The home forwards gradually rushed the ball into the visitors' 25, but it was soon taken back again to near the 'Quins' goal line, and a severe struggle took place between the opposing forwards. Eventually the 'Quins' rushed the ball over, and compelled the Whitchurchtonians to touch down. After the kick out the visiting team, warning to their work, removed the venue of play to near the home team's goal line. Afterwards Lewis was given a pass, and that player ran in and secured a try, but Turner failed to do the needful. The oval having been re-started, a number of scrimmages took place alternately in the visitors' and home team's 25, half time being called with the ball in the centre. Upon resumption James was given a pass near the centre, and, eluding his pursuers, landed the oval behind the posts. Turner this time covering the bar. Play now became fast and loose, and the passing of the 'Quins' more pronounced, Thomas and James showing prominently. The Whitchurch team, warning to the occasion, however, swept up the ground and were on the point of scoring, Hicks, White, and Davies doing good work. Owen Lewis, again given a pass near the centre, ran in and registered another try, which was again converted. D. Thomas soon after secured another try, Turner again kicking a goal. Loose play was now the order of the day, and James, picking up the oval, sprinted well, but was upset near the line. Davies, the skipper, securing, made off, but was collared by T. Davies (Whitchurch), who trickily took the ball and relieved by a good run to the centre. From now to the call of "No side" the 'Quins' played on the aggressive, and eventually won by three goals and one try, to nil. The following were the teams:—Whitchurch: Back, C. Evans; three-quarter backs, D. Llewellyn, J. Reed, W. Norton, and W. White; half-backs, T. Hicks and T. Evans; forwards, E. Lewis, W. Jones, T. Davies, J. Cassey, W. Williams, G. White, and B. Lowrie. Harlequins:—Back, Turner; three-quarter backs, Lewis, Grant, Thomas, and James; half-backs, Davies (captain), and Gorman; forwards, Emery, H. W. Jones, J. G. Jones, Bowen, Hunt, Willoughby, O'Brien, and Trathan. Umpires, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hall.

PONTYPRIDD V. PENARTH.—Played at Pontypridd, and a well-contested game ended in a victory for Pontypridd

An Easter tour game over to Aberdare provided a break from the regular grind and for the players it must have been a welcome change to play in a 'pleasant' match. 3rd April 1888, The Western Mail.

NEATH V. HARTLEPOOL ROVERS.
Neath closed their tour on Monday at Hartlepool, in the presence of 8,000 spectators. Hartlepool won by one goal, two tries, and five minors to one goal, one try, and four minors.

KIDWELLY V. LLANELLY "A."—Played at Stradey, on Monday resulting in win for the "A" by three minors to one. Mr. Powell refereed.

WHITCHURCH V. ABERDARE CRUSADERS.—Played at Aberdare on Easter Monday, and, after a very pleasant and even game, resulted in a draw in favour of Whitchurch, Whitchurch scoring one try and three minors, and Aberdare one try and one minor. The tries were got by D. Llewellyn for Whitchurch, and D. Howell for Aberdare.

SWANSEA DISTRICT MINOR CHALLENGE CUP.—Final.—Played on Monday afternoon between Manselton and Excelsiors. The latter won by three goals and two tries to nil.

A "draw in favour of Whitchurch", must have been a very satisfying result for our boys, but then again perhaps it wasn't viewed that way by the local press, this report providing a more detailed account on the game, 7th April 1888 published in The Aberdare Times, where's the TMO? :

a great future in store for the Refuge Assurance Company.

FOOTBALL.—*Aberdare Crusaders v Whitchurch.*
—A match was played at Cae Smith on Easter Monday between these teams before a fair attendance of spectators. The Whitchurch team kicked off and Oxenham replied. A lot of even scrums occurred in the centre and the home team, gradually asserting their strength, got into the Whitchurch 25. Hereabouts D. Howells gave James, and Oxenham plenty of passes and James who played quite up to his old form, made several good attempts to get in. The tackling of the visitors however was too good and when half time arrived the score was one minor each. Oxenham kicked off and Cadman Evans put in a good reply. The visitors, aided by the wind, now assumed the aggressive and after about twenty minutes play Hicks passed out smartly to Reed, who transferred to Llewellyn, scored at the end of the line. The kick at goal failed. Oxenham kicked

out and smartly following up his kick tackled Evans before he could return. Several scrums occurred in the Whitchurch 25 and D. Howells and W. Smith put in some good work for the home team, the latter especially tackling well. Howells passed out to James, who punted up the field. Evans's reply was charged down and D. Howells getting the ball ran in and scored behind the posts amidst loud cheers. An unfortunate dispute occurred over the kick for goal as neither the umpires nor the referee saw the kick, and although it was the opinion of most present that a goal was kicked Whitchurch disputed this and the game therefore ended in a draw of one try each. The following played for the Crusaders:—Back, D. Jenkins; three-quarter backs, J. James, C. Oxenham, R. Jones, and M. Charles; half-backs, D. Howells (captain), and W. Smith; forwards, T. Howells, Matt. Nichols, F. Mears, and B. Gibbon. Umpire, Mr W. Thomas. Referee, Mr F. R. Williams.

ABERDARE CHURCH ARMY.—On Easter

In what was probably the first match of the 1888/89 season Whitchurch 1st XV played against Whitchurch 2nd XV "resulting in a victory for the first by 3 goals, 2 tries to 1 try". Things however warmed up a few weeks later when Whitchurch played at home against Pontypridd in what seems to have been a bit of a shambles, with no referee and plenty of disputes – 16th November 1888 published in The Pontypridd Chronicle and Workman's News:

12.4 per 1000 per annum upon the same estimate

FOOTBALL

PONTYPRIDD v. WHITCHURCH.

In addition to the paragraph given in another column of the above match, played on Saturday last, we have received the following:—The home club not having their team ready when the Pontypriddians arrived, the kick-off was delayed until 4.30, which necessitated the game being curtailed to 20 minutes each way, and then the second half was played in semi-darkness. The weather was very inclement, and the state of the ground altogether against fast play, the ball being so greasy as to render passing well nigh impossible. To add to these discomforts the referee failed to turn up, which rendered the game one long series of disputes, every advantage gained by the Pontypriddians, in fact, every pass being disputed. Pontypridd succeeded in crossing the line six times, but only on one occasion did the home team allow the point, this being a try obtained by Miles after a good sprint. The game resulted, therefore, in a win for Pontypridd by one try and three minors to nil. The Pontypridd team consisted of the following:—Back, J. Williams; three-quarter backs, G. Gould, J. Miles, D. Gimlette, and T. Harry; half-backs, J. Davies and J. Thomas; forwards, W. Williams, A. Llewellyn, D. Davies, E. Gould, T. Nicholas, T. Llewellyn, W. Mitchell, and J. Ewens.

VOLUNTEERS v. CIVILIANS.

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(Unfortunately no record of the "paragraph given in another column" could be found).

Here's a match that got locals excited, it was one of the earliest local derby fixtures of Whitchurch vs Llandaff Yard dated 18th November 1888 in The South Wales Daily News. Llandaff Yard was the early name of what became Llandaff North RFC and the Whitchurch / Llandaff Yard fixture was played 3 times a season purely because of its attraction and 'the gate money'.

the Cleveland by one goal, one try, and two minors to two minors.

LLANDAFF 2ND v. ST JAMES'S.—Played at Roath-park, and after a pleasant game, resulted in a win for the city boys by three goals, five tries, and three minors to nil. The tries were got by L. Howe (2), T. Hughes (2), T. Evans (1), J. Davies (1), T. Goodfellow (1), and J. H. Thomas (1).

WHITCHURCH v. LLANDAFF YARD.—Played at Llandaff Yard, resulting in a draw in favour of Whitchurch by 1 minor to nil.

MORRISTON HARLEQUINS v. MOORETOWN RANGERS (SKEWEN).—Played at Morriston, resulting in a win for the Harlequins by 2 tries and 1 minor to 1 minor. The tries were obtained by D. Arnold.

HEATH ROVERS v. TREFOREST.—Played at Whitchurch, resulting in a win for the Rovers by 1 try and 4 minors to nil.

KIDWELLY v. BURRY PORT.—Played at Kidwelly on Maellwydmawr Field, and resulted in a victory for the home team by 1 goal, 2 tries, and 4 minors, to nil.

MOUNTAIN ASH "A" TEAM v. PONTYPRIDD JUNIORS.

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These 'cuttings' have intentionally included commentary on other matches purely to give the reader some idea of the type of fixtures that were being played back in those days and who knows, perhaps somebody might be able to pick up on another club/team that is of wider interest to their family.

Here we have another update on Whitchurch Juniors, this was published in The South Wales Daily News on 3rd December 1888, against local rivals Tongwynlais Juniors. Again there's no suggestion that it was a school game, but it is printed in amongst the scores from other junior and senior teams, although there is one school result shown (Severn Road School).

grounds, and resulted in a win for Treforest by 1 try to 2 minors.
 DOCK-STREET (Newport) v. MOSS ROSE.—Played on the latter's ground, at Newport, and resulted in a victory for the Moss Rose by 5 tries, 4 minors to nil.
 PONTYCLOWN v. BUTE TOWN RANGERS.—Played at Cardiff, Pontyclohn winning by 2 goals, 3 tries, and 1 minor.
 MOUNTAIN ASH v. PENTRE.—Played at Mountain Ash, and ended in a win for the home team by 1 goal, 1 try, 5 minors to nil.
 MARITIME (PONTYPRIDD) v. ABERDARE CRUSADERS.—Played at Aberdare, and ended in a win for the visitors, who scored 1 try to 2 minors.
 WHITCHURCH JUNIORS v. TONGWYNLAIS JUNIORS.—Played at Tongwynlais, and resulted in a win for the Whitchurch Juniors by 1 try and 1 minor.
 SPLOTT ROVERS v. ST. ANDREW'S.—Played at the Barracks field, and resulted in a win for the former by 3 tries and 1 minor to nil.
 SEVERN-ROAD SCHOOL v. LLANDAFF CITY STARS.—Played at Llandaff, resulting in a win for Severn-road by 1 goal and 7 minors to nil.
 ABERCARN JUNIORS v. CROSSKEYS 2NB.—Played at Abercarn, and after a well contested game ended in a victory for Abercarn by 1 goal to 1 try.
 SWANSEA TRINITY v. ST. HELEN'S.—Played on the Vetch Field, and resulted in a win for the Trinity team by 2 tries and 6 minors to 1 minor.
 ELY ROVERS v. NANTGARW.—Played at Nantgarw, and ended in a win for the Rovers by 1 goal and 2 tries

1889

On 23rd March 1889 Whitchurch were scheduled for an away match against Ely Rovers.

Judging by the exposure junior club rugby was getting it seems that rugby in general was on the rise with some highly competitive games and this cutting of the club advertising for future fixtures was dated 30th September 1889 in The South Wales Echo and it also tells us that there was enough interest for them to be able to field such a side. Llangwm Place, just out of interest, was the row of houses (now shop fronts) directly opposite The Plough (Whitchurch).

FOOTBALL.

WHITCHURCH JUNIORS have a w opep dates from January to April, and would be pleased to arrange matches with second or junior teams, and have a second team, who would be pleased to arrange matches with junior teams; average age 15.—T. Rees, Llangwm-place, Whitchurch, near Cardiff.

THE TROEDYRHIW SATURDAY RUGBY TEAM are open to play matches—Apply to T. Lewis, hon. sec., 63, Newstreet, Troedyrhiw.

We have to remember that rugby itself was a relatively new sport in Wales and Whitchurch rugby was still a fledgling club being just 4 years old.

It was the junior sides that seemed to have favour with The South Wales Daily News at this time, there were many occasions when the newspaper gave a lot of coverage for this level of rugby. On 31st August 1889 The South Wales Daily News gave notice of a Whitchurch Juniors club meeting, this time at The Fox and Hounds, the members mentioned having been members and players of the senior club. Glendenning for one being noted as an athlete in his day, not just a local rugby player, but also a top class runner in the field of athletics.

See to-day's issue for Deroy, Sandown, Amlwch, etc.
Reply-paid telegrams (48 words) promptly answered.
Address—J. MENTOR, Middleham, Bedale.

FOOTBALL.

WHITCHURCH JUNIORS—A meeting of this club was held at the Fox and Hounds room, when the following officers were elected:—Captain, J. Glendening; vice-captain, J. C. Evans; secretary, T. Rees, Llangwm-place, Whitchurch, near Cardiff, who would like to arrange matches with junior teams.

EBBW VALE.—The annual meeting of the Wednesday Football Club was held at the Emlyn Coffee Tavern, when Mr W. Gameson was elected captain, and Mr George Lloyd, 1, Church-street, secretary.

ABERGAVENNY FOOTBALL CLUB.—A meeting of this club was held at the Greyhound Hotel, when the following officers were elected:—Thursday team—J. Bishop, captain; R. Jacobs, vice. Saturday team—C. Jay, captain; G. Thurston, vice. Hon. secs: Messrs Jones and Williams, Britannia Inn, Abergavenny. Secretaries of medium teams please note.

HARLEQUINS' TOURNAMENT.—Entries close Monday. 7773

SCARING THE NATIVES.

The Fox and Hounds 'room' mentioned is most likely to have been the old school room that stood close to the road just in front of the pub (now demolished).

This brief article on junior matches was published in The South Wales Daily News on the 30th September 1889 with a Whitchurch Juniors win over Cardiff Rangers

the Manselton Racecourse, Swansea. In the first half the Mansel, playing with the wind, scored a goal and two tries. The second half was more evenly contested, the Mansel again scoring. The match thus ended in their favour by 1 goal, 3 tries, and 4 minors to 1 minor.

OAKFIELDS V. CAERLEON JUNIORS.—This match was played on Saturday on the ground of the latter at Caerleon, and resulted in a win for the visitors by 4 tries to nil.

ROYAL OAKS V. USKSID E JUNIORS.—Played at Newport on Saturday, and ended in a victory for the Usk-side team by 3 tries and 2 minors to a dropped goal and 2 minors.

SWANSEA HARLEQUINS V. MOUNT PLEASANT ROVERS.—Played on the ground of the latter. Score; Harlequins, 1 goal, 2 tries, 5 minors to nil.

WHITCHURCH JUNIORS V. CARDIFF RANGERS.—Played at Whitchurch and resulted in a win for the home team by 1 goal, 4 tries (one disputed), and 5 minors to 1 minor.

Whitchurch Juniors earned themselves more coverage here, published in The South Wales Daily News on 7th October 1889, this time against local rivals Pentyrch Juniors.

This against Grangetown on 14th October 1889 in The South Wales Daily News

the resumption of play Newport kicked off and followed up well. S. Rosser, the Chepstow back, "muffed" the ball, with the result that Edwards got over the line and secured a try, which was successfully converted. At the call of no-side Newport stood the winners by 1 goal, 1 try, and 4 minors to 1 try and 3 minors. The tries were obtained by Lancaster and Edwards for Newport, and by Rees Davies for Chepstow. Mr A. C. Morgan, of Monmouth, was the referee.

PENTYRCH JUNIORS V. WHITCHURCH.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for Pentyrch by 1 goal and 2 minors to a try and 3 minors.

ST. HELEN'S V. BRIGHTON (SWANSEA).—Played at Swansea. St. Helen's won by 1 try and 2 minors to 2 minors.

CARLTON V. SWANSEA HORNETS.—Played at the Swansea Recreation Ground, and ended in a win for Carlton by 1 goal, 7 tries, and 2 minors to 1 minor.

SWANSEA MINOR CUP TIE.—A tie in the local cup competition was played at Swansea between the Mansel Rangers and the Civil Service Rangers. The

ries Nil

was played at Llandaff, and resulted in a draw. Scores:—Llandaff Yard, 2 tries; Tredegarville, 1 goal.

CAERPHILLY V. TREFOREST.—This match was played at Caerphilly on Saturday, and was very pleasantly contested throughout. Caerphilly played a vastly improved game, and were victorious by 1 goal, 3 tries, and 4 minors to 1 try and 1 minor.

ROYAL OAKS V. OAKFIELD.—Played at the Marshes, Newport, resulting in a win for the Royal Oaks by 1 try and 4 minors to nil.

CARLTON (SWANSEA) V. NEATH PROPRIETARY.—Carlton won by 1 try and 4 minors to 2 minors.

VILLAGE BOYS V. CLEVELAND.—Victory for Village Boys by 5 minors to nil.

WHITCHURCH JUNIORS V. GRANGETOWN.—Played at Whitchurch, and resulted in a win for the home team by 2 tries and 11 minors to 2 minors.

MARITIME (PONTYPRIDD) V. PENTRE.—These teams met on the ground of the latter, a very exciting and well-contested match ensuing. Score:—Maritime, 1 goal, 2 minors; Pentre, 1 goal, 2 minors. Murray scored the try for Maritime, while D. Evans scored for Pentre. The Maritime Club have open dates on Oct. 18th and 25th at Pontypridd, and a few other dates for good clubs. Address Secretary, Maritime F.C., Ponty-

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Against Silver Star on 21st October
1889 in The South Wales Daily News

CARDIFF RANGERS A v. COGAN A.—Played at Cogan, resulting in a win for the Rangers by 1 try and 2 minors to 5 minors. The try was got by A. Elliot.

CATHAYS STAR "A" TEAM v. BLUE STAR JUNIORS.—Played at Cathays Recreation Grounds, and ended in a win for the former by 6 tries, 10 minors to two tries.

LLANDAFF JUNIORS v. BELGRAVE ROYERS.—Played at Sophia Gardens, and resulted in a victory for the Llandaff Juniors by 2 tries to 2 minors. The tries were obtained by N. Body (captain) and P. Yokes.

SILVER STAR v. WHITCHURCH JUNIORS.—Played at the Barracks Field, resulting in a win for Whitchurch by 1 goal and 3 tries to 1 goal and 2 tries. The tries for the Stars were obtained by B. King (2) and H. H. Smith, and for Whitchurch Stephens, T. Hole, and J. Davies.

CANTON v. CADOXTON AND BARRY "A" TEAM.—This match was played at the Sophia Gardens, and ended in a win for Canton, by 2 goals, 5 tries, 8 minors

And again on 18th November 1889 in The
South Wales Daily News against Nantgarw

win for the Harlequins by 2 tries to 1 try. O. Lewis and J. Jones scored for the Harlequins. The home backs were superior. The home team were rather overweighted forward.

PONTARDAWE RAMBLERS v. RHYDYFERO 1ST.—Played at Pontardawe. The former won by 1 goal, 2 tries, 3 minors to nil.

PONTNEWYDD v. ABERTILLERY.—A match took place here between Pontnewydd 1st team and Abertillery 1st team, resulting in a victory for the home team. The score was as follows: Abertillery, 1 goal, 1 try, 6 minors; Pontnewydd, nil.

WHITCHURCH JUNIORS v. NANTGARW.—This match was played at Whitchurch, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by 7 goals, 3 tries, 2 minors to nil.

MARITIME (PONTYPRIDD) "A" v. TON RANGERS.—Played at Pontypridd, and resulted in a win for the home team by 1 goal and 4 minors to 1 try.

MOUNTAIN ASH 2ND v. MISKIN UNITED.—Played at Mountain Ash on Saturday, and ended in a win for Mountain Ash by 1 goal, 3 tries, and 2 minors to 1 try and 1 minor.

MELINGRIFFITH v. RADYR ROVERS.—Played at Radyr, and, after a fast game, ended in a victory for the visitors by 2 tries, 3 minors to 1 try, 2 minors.

CATHAYS STARS 2ND v. STAR JUNIORS.—This match was played at the recreation ground, Cathays, and ended in an easy victory for the Cathays Stars by 3 goals, 2 tries, 8 minors, to 2 minors.

CADOXTON "A" TEAM v. DINAS POWIS.—This match was played at Dinas Powis, and resulted in a victory for Cadoxton by 4 tries, 4 minors to 5 minors. Boys, Davies, King, and Bowman played well for the winners.

These junior games shouldn't be dismissed either, they had as much intensity as the seniors if this one is anything to go by, Whitchurch at home against local rivals Llandaff Yard (Juniors). 25th November 1889 The South Wales Daily News.

a win for Cefn by 2 goals, 2 tries, and 4 minors to nil.

STAR JUNIORS (CARDIFF) v. USKSID (NEWPORT).—This match was played at Saltmead and resulted in a win for the latter by 1 try to nil.

LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS v. WHITCHURCH.—Played on the ground of the latter, and after a very rough game ended in a win for the home team by 1 goal, 2 tries to nil.

CAERPHILLY 2ND XV. v. COGAN 2ND.—Played at Caerphilly, resulting in a win for the home team by 3 tries to 1 goal.

CANTON NATIONAL SCHOOL v. RADNOR-ROAD SCHOOL.—Played at Sophia Gardens, Score:—Canton, 3

1890

Having waded through junior results we have yet another source of up and coming young players with schools rugby and this extract was taken from The South Wales Daily News on 20th January 1890

port on Saturday, and ended in a win for the former by 1 goal and 2 tries to 3 tries. Gould scored and converted for the Trojans.
WHITCHURCH BOARD SCHOOL V. RADNOR-ROAD BOARD SCHOOL.—Played on the ground for the former, and resulted in a win for them by 5 tries to nil.
LLANDILO V. LLANDOVERY TOWN.—The return match was played at Llandilo on Saturday. Both teams were well represented, and there was a large number of

It seems that the juniors were part of a wider network of clubs within the ranks of the Cardiff Union and on 23rd January 1890 (The South Wales Daily News) were part of a Cardiff Junior Cup Competition.

CLUBS ON MONDAY LAST.

CARDIFF JUNIOR CUP COMPETITION.
THE HANDICAP.
 On Wednesday evening Messrs W. D. Phillips, Hugh Hughes, and A. J. Davies, the gentlemen selected to handicap the teams entered for the cup put up for competition among the junior teams of Cardiff by the Best Brand Company, met at the Cottage Hotel, and after examining the result returns of the various teams from the commencement of the season to the end of December, placed them as follows:—St. David's (scratch), Cathays Rangers (2 points), Whitchurch Juniors (2 points), Post Office (4 points), Grange-town Juniors (5 points), Wharton Wanderers (6 points), Cathays Star (6 points), Tredegarville (6 points), Cardiff Rovers 2nd (8 points), Cogan (8 points), and Penarth (8 points). The ties are to commence on February 1st, and the final, the proceeds arising from which will be devoted to the Cardiff Infirmary, is fixed for March 12th.

The board school mentioned being the old school on Ty'n y Pwll Road, now a block of flats, but it looks like they had the makings of a decent side and if that wasn't enough.....on 10th February 1890

dropped 2 goals and W. Hemmings 1. The try-getters were A. Llewellyn (2), W. Hemmings, and G. Pearce. A Simmonds kicked the goals.
CATHAYS RANGERS V. CATHAYS STAR.—Cardiff Junior Challenge Cup Competition (1st round).—Played at Cathays, resulting in a win for Cathays Rangers by 5 goals and 5 tries, to nil. Referee, Mr Roberts, Cardiff Star.
LLANDAFF V. SWANSEA.—Played at Swansea. Harris, Harry Thomas, and Elliot were chiefly conspicuous for Llandaff, while Howells, Ludlow, Thomas and Court were prominent on the home side.
WHITCHURCH SCHOOL ROVERS V. RADNOR-ROAD SCHOOL (CARDIFF).—Played on the ground of the former, resulting in a win for the home team by 1 goal, 4 tries, and 4 minors to 1 try.
COGAN V. MARITIME.—Played at Pontypridd, and resulted in a win for Maritime by 1 goal and 3 tries to nil.
CANTON ROVERS V. RENNIE STARS.—This match should have been played at Canton, but, owing to the non-appearance of the Stars, it was postponed.
SILVER STAR V. ST. PETER'S JUNIORS.—Played at

On 3rd March 1890, The South Wales Daily News published a report on a Whitchurch home game against Canton

<p>wards is :-</p> <p>ivan- hem- tions wards rn to every arley does n the d at- and , and run ; was he the was fine ages ncey well, the work, ngth ree's kick later ded til a and line, The gave goal, ort's d by f the sing "No</p> <p>s</p> <p>T.</p>	<p>Forward A. W. Sheen Referee, Mr A. J. Davies, Cardiff Harlequins.</p> <p>WHITCHURCH v. CANTON.</p> <p>This match was played on the ground of the former in glorious weather, and was witnessed by a good number of spectators. Whitchurch, winning the toss, had the sun and the wind in their favour. Bartlett kicked off, and, T. Evans returning to half-way, the ball was speedily transferred to the home 25. Whitchurch relieved to the centre. From a line-out Harding secured, and trickily passing the home three-quarters got in on a difficult angle, which E. Jones failed to convert. On the ball being kicked out Richards headed a rush and Canton was forced to touch down in defence. As soon as the ball got out a long kick, well followed up, again forced the Cantonians to touch down. The centre now became the scene of strife, but the homesters quickly worked the oval down to the visitors' end. Good play on the part of Canton transferred hostilities to the parishioners' quarter. Whitchurch, however, playing with considerable energy, changed the venue to the visitors' 25, where Howells got over. The place taken by the same player proved abortive. Good all-round play was now witnessed in the vicinity of the equatorial, the leather ultimately being worked to the visitors' goal line, where Jones on the defensive received a severe kick on the head, which incapacitated him for the remainder of the game. Shortly after two minors—the result of long kicks—were notched in favour of Whitchurch. Canton, notwithstanding the loss of their full back, played pluckily and held their own. When half-time was called the score stood:—Whitchurch, 1 try, 4 minors; Canton, 1 try.</p> <p>Breathing time over, Stephens re-started, and the leather was worked to the Canton 25, where the game was waged vigorously for some time. Canton, it was evident, felt the want of their full back, but by hard work they changed the venue to the centre. Glendering, securing, made great pace, but was grandly overhauled by the visitors' skipper. The oval was now smartly removed to the homesters' 25, and was as speedily taken back to the visitors' quarter, where they were hard pressed and were obliged to touch in defence twice in succession. Crabtree being awarded a free kicked into touch, and gained some territory for the visitors. A rush from the line-out compelled Whitchurch to touchdown to save their citadel. On the ball again coming into play a palpable forward pass on the part of a Whitchurch player, which was not taken notice of by the referee, resulted in the parishioners taking the ball near the goal-line, and Stephens crossed. Howell failed at the place. The play from now on was confined to the visitors' half, and when time was called the score stood—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINAL SCORE :</p> <p>WHITCHURCH 2 tries, 6 minors. CANTON 1 try, 1 minor.</p> <p>GLOUCESTER v. PENARTH.</p> <p>There was a large crowd of spectators to witness</p>	<p>minor: before advan point ward not se Ros —Ros 1 goal. Park follow ing the later J the se half, V decott Bur Result cheste first h for so half-ti Duck Wallis BRO Wigan played after scored clough 1 try. Wes Result nil. splend superi conver a try McEw ing, an LIVI pool. minor pool, s scored half-ti ing th and T. Smith OLD score- minor first h provin ningto Pointe the ga CLAI Result This r worth. March</p>
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On the 3rd March 1890 The South Wales Daily News published a full write up on a 'Cardiff Junior Cup-Tie' in which Whitchurch travelled to play Grangetown at the Harlequins Ground, which seems to have been chosen as being a neutral venue.

FINAL SCORE :
 MAINDOE 1 try, 6 minors.
 NEWPORT 1 goal.

CARDIFF JUNIOR CUP TIE—SECOND ROUND.

GRANGETOWN v. WHITCHURCH—Grangetown met the Whitchurch team on Saturday on the Harlequins' ground to try conclusions for the "mug." Grangetown started the leather, sending it flying into their opponents' territory, and play settled at centre. Bennett saved his side with a neat run to Grangetown 25. From here Nicholas, seeing an opening, made himself conspicuous by following up a kick, and gathering up the leather ran to earth just on the line, drawing first blood, a try. Howell failed to convert. Resuming, the leather was propelled to Whitchurch 25, but this proved of temporary duration, as it was again taken to centre. After a good bit of forward play feet made no mark, but this proved of no advantage, as the ball was quickly returned to centre, where it settled down until A. Mapleston picking up sent the oval flying into the Whitchurch 25. Grangetown had rather hard lines in not scoring just in front of the posts, and the play was transferred to the Grange boys' 25. From here Whitchurch got to their opponents' line, where a minor was registered. From now to half-time nothing of importance was gained on either side, and Whitchurch led by 1 try and 1 minor to nil. The interval over, Whitchurch restarted, and operations were brought to the centre, where A. Mapleston received a kick in the leg, thus injuring the most useful member of the Grangetown team. He did not, however, retire, but stayed and exhibited some useful work for his side, although he was brought to limping. Grangetown were severely pressed for some time, Llewellyn doing a lot of work for Whitchurch. H. Mapleston was cheered for a good run and kick, but his opponents proved equal to the occasion, and Llewellyn was tremendously cheered for a run behind. This point was, however, disallowed. Whitchurch still pressed, and exacted a minor. From the kick off the ball was driven to centre, where H. Mapleston made tracks for the line, but was grassed, the ball falling into the hands of Llewellyn, whose course was marred, he being also grassed, Nicholas and Bennett exhibited a good bit of passing, the latter just failing to get over the line. The ball was dribbled to the Whitchurch 25, from where Gainey just missed getting over the line, being grassed just outside. The game moved somewhat lively towards the finish, and the ball had a rather rough time of it, being driven all over the field. A. Mapleston, the injured man, was conspicuous for a good collar, divesting Llewellyn of his jersey, and exposing him to the keen wind which blew across the field. The remaining play was of little interest, and thus left the Whitchurch boys victorious, the score reading:—

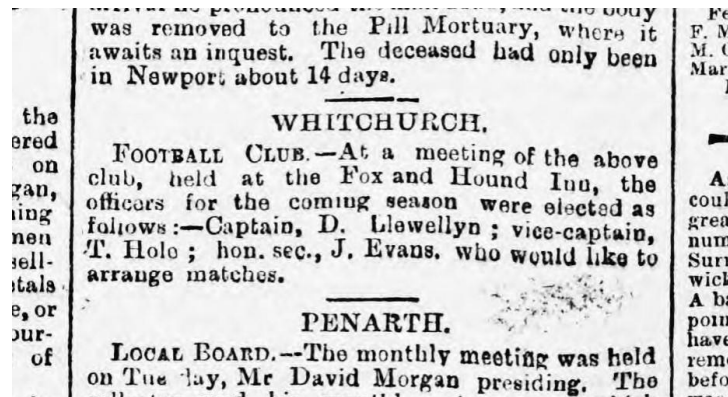
WHITCHURCH..... 1 try, 2 minors
GRANGETOWN..... nil.

The teams were as follow:—*Grangetown*—Back, G. Lloyd; three-quarter backs, C. Gainey, A. Mapleston, H. Mapleston, M. Evans; half-backs, J. Evans, P. Ryan; forwards, J. Hiers, J. Spavin, C. Hardey, J. Harvey, J. Lee, T. Adamson, T. Lee, W. Palmer. *Whitchurch*: Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, D. Llewellyn, B. Nicholas, G. Bennet, and J. Reed; half backs, T. Howells and J. Glendining (captain); forwards, T. Evans, D. Stevens, W. Stevens, T. Hole, W. Holdfield, T. Davis, D. Hopkins, and F. Adams. Umpire, G. Rowlands.

CARDIFF HARLEQUINS v. HEREFORD.
 Played at Hereford. Soon after the kick-off the

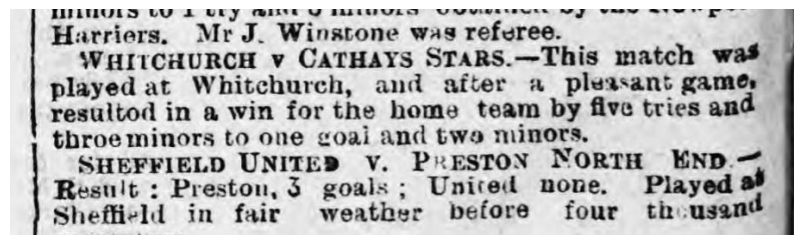
So here we have the full team, all named, for a Whitchurch Junior side and what a good win it was.

Notification was given in The South Wales Daily News on 7th August 1890 of the club's meeting where the election of 'officers' for the forthcoming season had taken place.

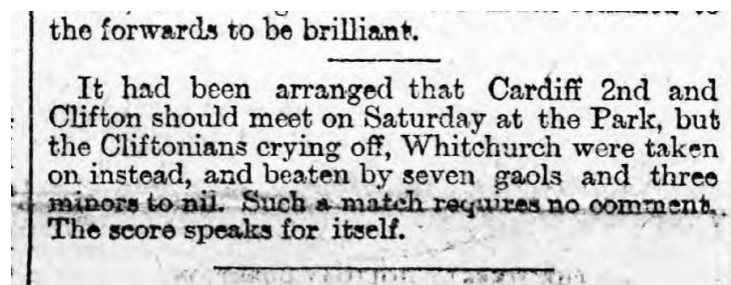


As we saw previously with the meeting of Whitchurch Juniors this meeting was held at The Fox and Hounds and so it now seems that the club had moved on from its early connection with The Three Elms. An interesting aspect to this is the club also seeking to arrange matches with other teams. Up until now we've seen reports and results from previous matches and the suggestion here is that the club did not compete in any type of formal league system, but played against select teams/clubs on an informal (friendly) basis fulfilling a season's fixtures by arrangement between clubs. Apart from this we know that Whitchurch was part of the Cardiff District Union and competed in the District's knockout cup competition. This type of ad hoc fixture arrangement enabled clubs to build a fixture list that suited their needs and of course their resources. Money would have been one of the major concerns with all committees at that time and no doubt, remains so to this day.

Early in season 1890/91, 23rd September 1890, Whitchurch seem to have got off to a good start - (The South Wales Daily News) with a 'pleasant' win over Cathays Stars



This match below could have turned out to be a fortuitous event on the future Whitchurch fixture list, 20th October 1890 The South Wales Daily News.



Although it was a thumping, the boys played on the old Arms Park and might have started something.

An early season derby was just what was wanted after the clocks had gone forwards, but which supporters went away feeling on top of the world? 11th November 1890 The South Wales Daily News.

thus suffered their first reverse this season at the hands of Bradford.

WHITCHURCH v LLANDAFF YARD.—Played at Whitchurch, and after a rather rough game, ended in a win for the home team by 1 goal and 1 try to 2 tries. It may be mentioned that Whitchurch scored 2 other tries, which the referee disallowed.

PRESTON NORTH END v. STOKE.—Result :—North End, 5 goals ; Stoke, 2. Played on Monday, at Stoke, before 4,000 spectators.

ABERTILLERY JUNIORS v. NEWBRIDGE.—Played at

You must have thought that was too easy, but no.....(15th November 1890, The South Wales Daily News)

E. R. DAVIS,
Normal College, Bangor, 13th Nov., 1890.

FOOTBALL.—WHITCHURCH v. LLANDAFF YARD.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Seeing in yesterday's issue of the *South Wales Daily News* a report of a football match, Whitchurch v. Llandaff Yard, stating that Whitchurch won by 1 goal, 1 try, to 2 tries, I think it only fair for me to state as referee in the match that the final result as given by me was Llandaff Yard 2 tries, to Whitchurch 1 try ; and that I did not disallow any point fairly gained on either side. As a word of advice to the Whitchurch Club, let me say that it would be better for them if they learned to take a beating on their own ground with a little better grace.—I am, &c.,

J. GEORGE.

The Freehold, Llandaff, November 12.

A CIVIL SERVANTS' VOLUNTEERING CORPS FOR CARDIFF.

(Note the referee's address)

On 24th November Whitchurch were mentioned in The Western Mail, with a result that read "Harlequins A v. Whitchurch – Played at Penarth Road Ground. Result Whitchurch, one goal; Quins A, one try".

On the 20th December 1890 the Whitchurch home game against Harlequins was "Off, owing to snow".

On the 14th November 1890 Cogan had high hopes of continuing their unbeaten run with a home against Whitchurch. Since Cogan had dethroned their captain they had not lost a match.

1891

By 1891 reports had reverted back to senior games and this little snippet was published in The South Wales Daily News on 9th February 1891 in what was 'pleasant mid winter' match.

Wanderers, 2 minors; Spillers' United, nil.
 NEATH A V. SWANSEA A.—Played at Neath, before a fair crowd of spectators, and after an even game ended in a win for the visitors, by 1 try to 2 minors.
 WHITCHURCH V. CATHAYS STAR.—Played at Cathays, and after a pleasant game resulted in a win for Whitchurch by 2 goals (one field) and 3 tries to 1 minor. The tries were obtained by R. Nicholas (2), G. Stephens, and J. Glendining, who also kicked the goal. The visitors' backs played a grand game throughout.
 LLANDOVERY SCHOOL V. LAMPETER COLLEGE.—This match was played at Llandoverly. Phillips kicked off for Lampeter, but A. B. Jones mulling the ball the game was in neutral ground. From a scrum the

Here's one for the purists among you and right at the beginning of the season too, but who were they? 11th September 1891 The South Wales Echo

rendered by Mr. W. E. Jarman who officiated as referee during the day, and gave complete satisfaction to all the players and the onlookers. The following are the results:—
 BARBARIANS (24 points) v. WHITCHURCH, CARDIFF (12 points).—At first the Whitchurch team, being much the heavier, had the best of the game, but the youngsters played in capital form, and Harding John, from a punt by one of the visitors, took the ball close to his own goal line and ran in a capital try. The final score was:—Barbarians, 32; Whitchurch, 20.
 MARITIME (scratch) v. TON RANGERS (10 points).—This was rather a tame affair, the Rangers being evidently completely out of form. The Maritime, playing well together, won easily by 21 points to 13.
 TREORKY (10 points) v. PORTH (14 points).—During the first ten minutes this match was capitally contested, but again the heavier team had

A win soon followed, 29th September 1891 The South Wales Daily News...

pennar, and resulted in a win for Cefnpennar by 1 goal, 1 try, 2 minors to 1 minor.
 WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF HABLEQUINS A TEAM.—Played at the 'Quins ground, Corbett-road, Cathays, and resulted in a win for Whitchurch by 1 goal, 1 try, and 2 minors to nil. The tries were obtained by D. Llewellyn after good runs, and the goal was kicked by T. Howells.
 ST. DAVID'S HALL 2ND XV. v. SANDON-PLACE.—Played on the ground of the former, and ended in a draw, each side scoring a minor

The games are coming thick and fast now and players' names are becoming fixtures in the team, this was a match against Grangetown played at Whitchurch, but where? - A ground with a slope. 5th October 1891, The Western Mail

pridd, er the erum nnelly sterr. goal umed s got as:— nors; Back, , Ben ks, C. eilyn, J. R. Wil- arter es, J. ounns C. B. omas, fr. D. first ains clock lost ided	minors; Abernethy, one goal (dropped) and one minor. GRANGETOWN v. WHITCHURCH. —This match was played at Whitchurch and attracted a goodly number of spectators. Grangetown lost the toss and kicked off against the slope and the wind. The heavy visitors soon forged ahead, and after a long siege Ryan received the ball, and, dodging splendidly scored a try. Spavin failed at goal. Half-time then arrived. After the re-start Whitchurch woke up and forced play in the visitors' quarters, but M'Carthy, T. Richards, and Ryan, by splendid passing, reached the home line, but failed to score. The passing of the visitors was brilliant, but the defence was equally as good. A grandly contested game resulted in a win for the visitors by one try and two minors to one minor. The following were the teams:— <i>Whitchurch</i> , Back, F. Howells; three-quarter backs, D. Llewellyn, T. Jones, W. Garland, and R. Nichols; half-backs, P. Hicks and W. Edney; forwards, W. Stephens (captain), J. R. Dale, J. Criddle, T. Hale, E. Stephens, J. C. Evans, O. T. Evans, and Taylor. <i>Grangetown</i> , Back, W. James; three-quarter backs, T. Richards, S. Richards, T. M'Carthy, and T. Partridge; half-backs, P. Ryan and J. Thomas; forwards, J. Spavin (captain), W. Palmer, J. Smith, J. Hiers, B. Vokes, Tylor, Millar, and A. Elliot. ST. HELEN'S RECREATION v. TYLDESLEY. —Played at St. Helens before 7,000 people. In the first half the Recreation got a penalty goal, and Tyldesley one	set S their preve end o point the s chant more once, Al An popu at th occu sent, had a Blain thoug and v place any c kindl Farm office vice- Rev. Pouls E. de treas
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A week later, on 12th October 1891 The South Wales Daily News published a brief account of an away game against Cogan.

own the ome and ack. the bal- nor eir the few the	football weather at Brecon in the presence of a large number of spectators. The match was splendidly contested throughout. Final score: Pontardawe, 2 tries, 4 minors; Brecon, 2 minors. NEATH A v BRITON FERRY. —Played at Briton Ferry. Neath A, 2 minors; Briton Ferry, 1 minor. WHITCHURCH v. COGAN. —Played at Cogan, resulting in a win for Cogan by 1 goal, 3 minors to nil. Cogan started the leather, and play settled at the half-way flag. Alf. Mapleson intercepted a Whitchurch pass, and ran three-parts the length of the field and planted the leather behind the posts, B. Smith kicking a splendid goal. Play was chiefly confined to the Whitchurch 25, and nothing but the greasy state of the ball stopped the Cogan backs from scoring. CAMROSE JUNIORS v. JOSTY STARS. —Played on the ground of the latter, and ended in a win for the former	E u su W th H B te se th de P sc pc D
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By October though Whitchurch, with E Hopkins now in the role of hon. sec., were advertising for fixtures having a spare date to fill – 26th October 1891 in The Western Mail.

E. D. iths T. wis. ree- — and T. rts, A.	a dropped goal and two tries to nil. CUP TIES AT LLANELLY. —The semi-final in the local cup ties at Llanelly was played at Stradey, between the Mill and the Dimpath Rovers. The game ended in a draw. OPEN DATE. —The Whitchurch Football Club have October 31st open (home) for good club.—E. Hopkins, hon. secretary, Whitchurch, Cardiff. RIVERSIDE v. STAR A. —Played at the Sophia Gardens, and resulted in a win for the Riverside by one (dropped) goal, one try, and three minors to one (dropped) goal, and a minor. ST. JOHN'S SECOND v. NEVILLE-STREET. —Played at Sophia Gardens and resulted in a draw each	I A I A I A A A A A A A
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Here's a good one, local interest, Whitchurch v Melingriffith dated 2nd November 1891 from The South Wales Daily News

Played at Llandaff on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the 'Quins by a dropped goal to a try. The goal was dropped by C. Hallett.

BARRY AND CADOXTON DISTRICT v. CANTON.—Played at the Witchell Grounds, resulting in a draw in favour of the District.

TROEDYRHIW v. PENRHIWCEIBER.—Played at Troedyrhiw. Result:—Troedyrhiw, 1 try, 7 minors; Penrhiwceiber, nil. D. Davies scored the try.

CARDIFF STAR A v. CATHAYS A.—Played at the Barracks Field, and resulted in a win for the Star by 3 tries and 3 minors to 1 minor. The tries were obtained by H. Ashton, Downey, and Sub.

WHITCHURCH v. MELINGRIFFITH.—This match was played at Whitchurch in the presence of a large number of spectators, and after a pleasant game resulted in a win for Whitchurch by 1 goal, 1 try (7 points) to 1 try (two points). The tries were obtained by W. Garland and W. Edney. J. Glendenning obtained the try for the visitors after a good run.

AMMANFORD v. CWMAMAN.—Played on the grounds of the former, and ended in a win for Ammanford by 1 try, 3 minors to 3 minors.

PONTARDAWE v. SWANSEA RESERVES.—Played at Pontardawe, resulting as follows:—Pontardawe, 2 tries, 4 minors; Reserves, 1 penalty goal.

PONTYPRIDD "A" v. PENYGRAIG "A."—Played on the Taff Vale Grounds, on Saturday, before a fair gate. The Penygraig looked like pigmies in comparison to the home team, but they were the lot the better team.

The Ponty game looks like it would have been interesting, but in 'ours' it was clearly match of the day here "in the presence of a large number of spectators". It looks like the Glendenning family were thoroughbreds, assuming it's not the same Glendenning mentioned earlier in the script, or was it? Here he is playing for Whitchurch against Splott Rovers published on 9th November 1891 in The South Wales Daily News

Ellsworth saved splendidly for the visitors. Mr W. E. Jarman (Cardiff) was the referee.

FINAL SCORE:

MARITIME	1 try.
LLANDAFF	nil.

WHITCHURCH v. SPLOTT ROVERS.—Played at Whitchurch. Result: Splott, 1 goal, 1 try to 1 goal. Teams: *Splott*:—Back, J. W. Morrison; three-quarter backs, T. Adams, W. Oliver, W. Warren, and I. Ellsworthy; half-backs, J. Francis and H. J. Godwin; forwards, C. Hole, G. Marks, H. Palmer, C. Fish, D. Oliver, F. Dalrymple, C. Jones, and G. Pryce. *Whitchurch*:—Back, T. Howells; three-quarter backs, J. Glendenning, T. Jones, Nicholas, and Llewellyn; half-backs, P. Hicks and W. Edney; forwards, Evans, Stephens, Thomas, J. H. Hale, F. C. Hale, Quick, T. Hole, and E. Stephens. Referee, Mr J. Kennefic, Cathays F.C. The brothers Oliver scored for Splott, and Glendenning for the home team after a splendid run. The game was a very fast one throughout. The Splott had very hard lines in not scoring on more than one occasion. Morrison, the full back, got hurt just after half-time.

HARLEQUINS A v. NEWPORT A.—Played on the St Andrew's Cricket Ground, and ended in a win for the home team by 2 goals, 1 try, 2 minors to 2 minors. The visitors were very heavy in front, but the home side

On 7th December 1891 Whitchurch were beaten at home against Barry — "Barry 2 minors; Whitchurch 1 minor", clearly a close game.

Something wasn't quite right with the way things were organised just before Christmas in 1891, on 14th December, The Western Mail printed this report which doesn't do the reputation of either side any favours.

But, that wasn't the end of it, on the 16th December The Western Mail printed the Cogan interpretation of events.....

present.
MR. T. E. LEWIS (Pontypridd) states that in the match with Neath on Saturday the Pontypridd team was minus seven players, whose places had to be filled up from the second team.
MR. JOHN H. HALL (secretary of the Cogan Football Club) complains of "the brutal and rough play" of the Whitchurch team on Saturday, and adds that the score was one try and one minor for Cogan and one minor for Whitchurch, instead of a goal for Whitchurch and a try and a minor for Cogan. Mr. Frank E. Rowles (referee) confirms the Cogan secretary's score and facts."
MR. W. MILLER (Neath), the referee in the match played between Mountain Ash and Cardiff Association on December 5, denies having admitted ignorance of the game, and states that "if there was any blame at all it rested on the home side."
"D. M." (Maesvowimmer).—The *Western Mail* was established on May 1, 1869.
"B." (Merthyr).—There is only one Lord Wimborne.

try, and an even game resulted in a draw.
WHITCHURCH V. COGAN.—These teams met at Whitchurch. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, the greater part of the home team had left the field, and the services of several substitutes had to be requisitioned to fill the vacancies. Cogan kicked off against the wind, and after some loose play they scored a try, which, however, was not converted. At half-time the score was:—Cogan, one try; Whitchurch, nil. On resumption, the home team played up in grand style, Glendenning showing good form. They rushed their opponents the whole length of the field, and Glendenning scored. T. Mansell kicked a splendid goal. This had a deteriorating effect upon the visitors, and in order, it is supposed, not to be beaten any further, they walked off the field a quarter of an hour before time. Final score:—Whitchurch, one goal and two minors; Cogan, one try and two minors.
USK V. MONMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Played on the Island. Usk, on Saturday in a downpour of

minor.
WHITCHURCH V. MACHEN GREYS.—This match was played at Whitchurch, in the presence of a good number of spectators. Whitchurch won the toss, and Machen kicked off. From a scrum Glendining was given a pass and made off in good style, but was pushed into touch. From the line out Llewellyn got possession and ran into the visitors' 25, where he was brought down by Mayberry. From a scrum Glendining again ran to the visitors' 25, where a scrum was formed. Glendining, securing the ball, passed to Jones, and the latter transferred to Llewellyn, who scored in a good position. Howells kicked a goal. After the kick out Machen rushed to the home line, but Howells relieved with a kick to the centre. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, one goal; Machen, nil. On re-starting, the Whitchurch forwards made a rush to the visitors' line, but Neal relieved with a kick to the home 25. Glendining soon after got a pass, and, after a good run, scored. The place kick failed. Machen, by some good play, now got to the half-way flag, where Hicks picked up and passed to Nicholas, who transferred to Glendining, and the latter scored. The point was not improved upon. From the drop out Hicks got possession in the visitors' 25, and scored. Result:—Whitchurch, two goals and two tries; Machen, nil. Teams:—*Whitchurch*: Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining, T. Jones, R. W. Nicholas, and D. Llewellyn; half backs, T. Howells and P. Hicks; forwards, J. H. Hale, T. Hole, F. C. Hale, J. Stephens, C. Quick, E. Stephens, J. Criddle, and G. Stephens. *Machen*: Back, J. Righton; three-quarter backs, Bellingham, Neal, Mayberry, and Griffiths; half backs, Harrington and Harris; forwards, M. Everson (captain), Woodruff, D. T. Evans, W. Woodruff, A. Jenkins, C. Roberts, L. Jenkins, and J. Griffiths.

No such complaints the following week though, on the 21st December 1891 The Western Mail published the match report (right) of a Whitchurch win over Machen.....

1892

The wheels came off a bit at the beginning of February with this result on 1st Feb 1892 in The Western Mail

stated that they were minus Jago, Nicholls, Sawyer, Osmond, and White. This is the second time these teams have drawn this season.

NEWPORT HARRIERS V. CARDIFF RANGERS.— Played at Newport, and ended in a win for the Harriers by two tries and two minors to nil.

CATHAYS V. WHITCHURCH.— Played at Whitchurch, and resulted in a win for Cathays by one try and six minors to one minor. Cathays had hard lines in not scoring more.

CRWYS STARS V. ST. AGNES.— Played at the Barracks Field, and ended in a win for the Saints by

Of local interest too, from the edge of the village, is the name of Philog Rovers, they played against Pearl Crusaders at Whitchurch, winning by 1 goal, 2 tries and 3 minors to 4 minors, mentioned in The South Wales Daily News on 15th February 1892

392.

and P. Green played well for the losers, as also did J. Williams, T. Seward, and H. Clarke for the winners.

PHILOG ROVERS V. PEARL CRUSADERS.— Played at Whitchurch, and ended in a win for Philog by 1 goal, 2 tries, 3 minors to 4 minors.

WELLINGTON JUNIORS V. FAIR OAK.— Played at the Barracks field, resulting in a win for the Juniors by 1 goal, 1 try, and 3 minors to 1 try. George. H. Ovenden, and C. A. Williams played well for the winners.

CANTON UNITED V. CARDIFF WINDSOR.— Played on

On the 29th February 1892 The Western Mail reported on a win for a depleted Harlequins team.

Time was down called, with the score—Llandaff, three tries; Abergavenny, one try.

HARLEQUINS "A" V. WHITCHURCH.— Played at Whitchurch. The visitors arrived short of one man. Losing the toss, Hurlow kicked off for the 'Quins against the wind. The ball was returned, and play at once became fast and open, the home men passing well, but the good tackling of the visitors prevented a score. The 'Quins pressed, but could not score, and Whitchurch came away to the other end, and, after some good passing, Evans scored a try, which was converted. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, one goal; 'Quins, nil. On the re-start Whitchurch pressed, but the visitors relieved and dribbled to the other end. Hurlow passed to Smith, who smartly dropped for goal, the ball just going outside. Shortly after the same player kicked over and exacted a minor. The 'Quins returned to the attack, and from a line out Hurlow dodged and got over in the corner. Smith, with a magnificent kick, converted. The kick-off was charged down by Robinson, and play took place in the home 25. Davies returned a kick, and Dawson tackled the back before he could move. The 'Quins continued to press, and time was called with the score reading—'Quins, one goal and three minors; Whitchurch, one goal.

BRIDGEND V. TAIBACH.— Great indignation was felt by the partisans of the Tabach club on account

Things didn't get any better, disharmony seems to have set in for whatever reason, a problem noted by the sports columnist of The Evening Express when he hung out some of the 'club's washing to dry' on 3rd March 1892 with this comment:

It's the type of thing that happens when players and those 'governing' are out of sync, there's no fault, plenty of finger pointing of course, good ambitious players need the opportunity to progress and succeed, while 'managing' the affairs of a team and a club, in a voluntary capacity, is a tough job and a big ask.

* * *

Deserting Their Club.

—————"The Whitchurch football team is in a very disorganised state."

"What is the matter?"

"I hear that some of the best players have been offered places in other teams, and that they have turned their backs on their own club."

"That's bad. They cannot work harmoniously together if that is the case."

"No, not by any means. There seem to be too many masters in the club, each of whom wants prominence given to his pet scheme."

"I am sorry that some influential player cannot be found who would imbue the disaffected players with a sportsmanlike spirit."

"It is a pity. Then the club would shine, for there are some really good players connected with it. For instance, Glendenning, the fleet three-quarter, Llewellyn, his *confreere*, and Howells, the tricky half-back; whilst the full back (Evans) has had several invitations to join the second Cardiff string."

"Yes; I always had a good opinion of those players, and I hope something will be done to create more *esprit de corps* in the club."

"So do I."

* * *

Performances did improve with a home win over Canton by one try to nil "after a good game". (14th March 1892, The Western Mail).

This performance might have lifted the spirits but it still looks to have been considered a loss judging by the scorelines of all previous matches, on 7th March 1892 The Western Mail published this brief account of a home game against Penarth 'A'.

PENARTH "A" V. WHITCHURCH.

Played at Whitchurch on Saturday last, in the presence of a good number of spectators. From a scrum Heywood got possession, and after a short run threw to Shepherd, who scored a grand try. After the kick out the home team rushed to the visitors' line, and E. Stephens picked up in fine style and scored at the corner. In the second half, Whitchurch, by a good bit of play, took the oval near the visitors' line, but their back punted into touch. Shortly after, Hicks picked up, and after a good run scored. Final score: —Penarth "A." one goal and three minors; Whitchurch, two tries and two minors. Teams:—*Penarth A*—Back—G Matthews; three-quarter—T Heywood, G Stevens, J Tanner, and W Lambert; half-back—J Brown and Hubbard; forward—F Hutchings, J White (captain), E Ellis, J Dyer, D Davies, Jones, Sawyer, and R Escott. *Whitchurch*—Back—D M Thomas; three-quarter—E Stephens, J C Evans, W Stevens (captain), and D Stephens; half-back—D T Evans and P Hicks; forward—J Hole, J Criddle, J Stephens, T Hole, W Rowlands, C Quick, G Stephens, V Taylor.

COGAN V. KNOWLE (BRISTOL).

Little to dispute over the result a month later when Whitchurch went to Penarth to play, 8th April 1892 published in The Barry Dock News

match brings SUDROOK'S fixtures to a close. Sixteen matches have been played, of which 12 were won, three lost, and four drawn.

WHITCHURCH v. PENARTH "A."—Played at Penarth on Saturday afternoon last. Final score:—Penarth "A," two goals (one dropped), a try, and six minors; Whitchurch, *nil*. The tries for Penarth were scored by Joe Williams, Matthews converting the first. Tom Brown dropped the goal. The visitors were pressed in their own 25 during the whole of the second half.

CADOXTON JUNIORS v. PENARTH WINDSOR "A."—This match was played at Cadoxton on Saturday last, and resulted in a win for the Juniors by a goal and a

Here's another giving us some insight on the Philog team, with a bit of local rivalry from Tongwynlais, The South Wales Daily News 21st March 1892

12	BY JUNIORS V. THE BOYS BRIGADE.—At Barry, and	AS 1
o	resulted in an easy win for the Juniors by 4 goals, 8	the
o	tries to 2 minors.	yea
o	PHILOG ROVERS v. TONGWYNLAIS.—At Whitchurch,	yea
n	and ended in a win for Philog by 4 tries, 4 minors to 1	the
y	try 1 minor.	por
t	CANTON HARLEQUINS v. CANTON A.—Played in the	abi
l	Sophia Gardens Park in beautifully fine weather. The	one
s	ground was in splendid condition. Play was almost	wei
	devoid of interest, it being mostly confined to the	

Among the fixtures shown by the later newspapers Whitchurch were due to play Barry at Whitchurch (24th March 1892 The Evening Express)

Don't want to tell tales, but..... 1st April 1892 Glendenning was down on the team sheet as having played forLlandaff

In the close season a meeting was held in The Fox and Hounds 'Assembly Room' as reported in The Evening Express on 12th August 1892 in preparation for the 1892/93 season.

ments for matches during the season with some of the premier teams.

Whitchurch Football Club.

The annual meeting of the Whitchurch Football Club was held at the Fox and Hounds Assembly-room on Wednesday night. There was a good attendance. Mr. D. Stone presided. The following officers for the current year were unanimously elected:—President, Mr. James Allen; captain First Fifteen, Mr. J. B. Glendenning; captain Second Fifteen, Mr. W. Shapland; vice-captain, Mr. B. Hopkins; committee, Messrs. J. Glendenning, J. Allen, J. George, D. Stone, J. Robatham, W. Garland, and G. Stephens. Mr. E. E. Hopkins, Philog, Whitchurch, who was re-elected hon. secretary, will be glad to arrange matches.

The Dynas Powis First and Second Football Teams would be glad to arrange Matches with any local Junior Teams.—Apply E. Cram, Hon. Sec. [333w12]

Some notable names there with the usual suspects, men committed to the cause. None more so than Glendenning who was mentioned by the sports columnist of The Evening Express on 23rd August 1892.

... racing, as also should Whitchurch on September 10. Good prizes are offered for both meetings.

Glendenning, the sprinter, will, I am assured lead the Whitchurch "leather shifters" to victory during the coming season.

Two occurrences not often seen took place during last week's cricket on the Park, at Cardiff.

(Not so sure of the 'leather shifters' term though).

On 30th September 1892 The Evening Express published fixtures with Whitchurch down to play 'Cadoxton and Barry District' and also down to play away against 'Taffs Well Stars', one presumably being a 2nd team fixture. Early in the season we also get notice of some fixtures among them being a Whitchurch 2nd XV game against Canton 2nds scheduled for Whitchurch (The Evening Express, 23rd September 1892) and good to know that the club still fields a 2nd XV.

On 7th October 1892 The South Wales Star featured the Cadoxton game against Whitchurch, the commentary providing a more critical view on the performance of the Cadoxton tackling. They did receive a lot of praise though for having all travelled together, which seemed to have been considered a success.

list of fixtures inserted under the Football heading are requested to forward me one of their fixture cards.

The Cadoxton District Team played their first fixture away, travelling, with their skipper, to Whitchurch to play the boys representing that village. The visitors lost, and had occasion to return a beaten though not ashamed team. The Cadoxtonians lost the match through the weak collaring of the home three-quarters. They require coaching, being slow both in their sprinting and collaring tactics. The new full-back did not come up to expectations, he also being slack in his powers of collaring. The visiting forwards, he it said, played up like Trojans, and showed to better advantage in the second half, whilst the halves were more than equal to their opponents.

Individually, Williams was the pick of the visiting quartette, but it must be confessed that he has been seen to better advantage, and may improve with the others, it is hoped, as time goes on. Cannot Thomas, who is the making of a good man, be placed in the second team, and so for a while give way to a better man.

Of the two halves it would be unfair to mention the name of one, both doing their level best for the success of the team they represented.

Forward, all played up well, their heeling out being a treat to witness. The only advice that can be given them is not to fail to mark their men on the line-out, and less talking as to what so and so should do, which work is for the captain to deal with.

Of the home team Glendenning, the captain, and Garland were seen at their best, and they were the means of Whitchurch's success. The forwards, as a whole, played a grand game.

It was very encouraging to the captain—Tom Morgan—to see the whole team turn up at the station, together with the reserves, on Saturday last. This was a very weak point in the selected teams of last season.

To-morrow (Saturday) Cadoxton will meet Canton on their own ground, when last Saturday's team should, with the exception of the three-quarter above mentioned, be selected by the committee for the tussle.

The Bowry Boys were expected by the Barry

Now here's an interesting one for local historians, it was published in The South Wales Daily News on 8th October 1892 and apart from giving us an update on the names of first team players (Glendenning as captain), it tells us of the opening of a new Football (Rugby) and Athletic ground in our village. In all probability, this was just over the brook, directly behind the Fox and Hounds pub and St Teilo's Church, an area that is now part of the grounds of Whitchurch High School, just over the bridge at the entrance to the school.

half-backs, G. L. Diamond and T. Seward ; forwards, J. Vaughan, J. Beamall, E. Hutchins, J. Thomas, W. Hughes, McKinnon, E. James, and T. Pengelly.
WHITCHURCH V. MAINDEE (MON.).—These teams will open the Whitchurch new Football and Athletic Ground to-day, and a good game is anticipated. The following will represent the home team:—Back, J. Williams ; three-quarters, J. B. Glendenning (captain), D. Llewellyn, W. Garland, and J. C. Evans ; half-backs, G. Morris and W. Edney ; forwards, J. H. Hale, W. T. E. Thomas, W. Rowlands, F. Harris, F. C. Hale, E. Smith, V. Taylor, and D. Hopkins.
CANTON HARLEQUINS A TEAM V. RAGLAN (NEWPORT).—To be played at Newport. Teams—*Canton Harlequins A Team*: Back, A. N. Other ; three-quarter backs, R. Jenkins (captain), F. Emery, W.

The Evening Express published more on this on 10th October 1892 elaborating more on the match itself, with Whitchurch going down to 14 men.

streets ahead of his Tondy opponent, who was hardly a success.
 * * *
 The members of the Maindee (Mon.) Football Club visited Whitchurch on Saturday to open the new football and athletic ground, a good game resulting. Both teams played with spirit and determination, but there was a lack of combination. Soon after the commencement of hostilities, F. Hale, the Whitchurch three-quarter, had to retire, having had a nasty kick. This disorganised the combination of the home three-quarters, and their passing tactics proved futile. The visiting backs were not by any means so good as the home lot, or the score would have been more in their favour. The forwards were about equally matched. The play of the Maindee back was everything that could be desired, his long kicks to touch being of great service to his side, while Haggett shone as three-quarter.
 * * *
 The Whitchurch full back proved a frost, and he gave a very poor display. T. Howells (Whitchurch) was the best player on the field, his

Cont'd below

ONDAY, OCTOBER

passing, saving, and dribbling being a treat to witness. Considering that the home team had one man short in the rear division, their play and defence was excellent. Glendenning was the hero of the day, and was at times dangerous. The game on the whole was a pleasant one.

* * *
 With the thoughts of last year's defeats in mind Grangetown made no mistake on Saturday, and rather surprised the Roath team. The visitors were

Here are two different accounts of the same match, Barry v Whitchurch at The Buttrills, some of the better reports, well reported, given the space allocated. The left hand one was published in The South Wales Daily News on 17th October 1892, the RH one being published in The Barry Dock News on 21st October 1892 with an insight on the teams that played that day

BARRY v. WHITCHURCH.
 Played on the Buttrills Ground, near Barry, in beautiful weather, before a fair number of spectators. The visitors won the toss, the Barryites kicking off. The oval being returned to touch by the homesters from a scrum, Glendenning obtained a pass and ran to half-way. Llewellyn next came off with a fine run and passed to Glendenning, who was pushed into touch at the centre. Shortly afterwards play was suspended for a few minutes, Rowlands receiving a nasty hit on the nose. The ball out, Reynolds kicked in touch, after which a capital bout of passing was witnessed on the part of the home quartette, and in the course of a second or two J. Rees, a home quarter, planted the ball behind the posts, the same man converting magnificently. The ball out, the leather was rushed down to the visitors' 25, and play waged in mid-field for a considerable time. When half-time was announced the score was :

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
BARRY		1	0	0
WHITCHURCH		0	0	0

On the change of ends the visitors warmed up a little, the ball being kept in the home territory for some time. Owing to an irregularity by one of the Barry halves, a free was allowed Whitchurch, and a minor was conceded. From a scrum in the centre the visitors took the oval down to the home 25, the same being returned to half way by Giggs, to be sent back again by Whitchurch. Barry had to concede another minor. From a pass from Tommy Davies, Rees obtained, and trickily evading his opponent, took the leather to the visitors' 25, and from an awkward pass from the latter it was sent in touch. A scrum was formed near half-way, and from a grand punt from Radley, Barry had to yield the third minor. A free was allowed Barry, but it availed them nothing, a minor being shortly afterwards obtained. Nothing of importance afterwards transpired.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
BARRY		1	0	1
WHITCHURCH		0	0	3

CARRIBILLY HARLEQUINS v. GANTON

BARRY v. WHITCHURCH.
 Played on the Buttrills Ground, Barry, on Saturday last, when a capital game was witnessed. Whitchurch won the toss, and Barry kicked off. Hostilities for some time were confined to the home quarters, with varying fortunes on both sides. Owing to a mishap to Rowlands, a Whitchurch man, a temporary suspension of play intervened, but after a few minutes' cessation play was resumed, and a rush was made up the field, and, after some pretty passing by the Barry three-quarters, Rees got possession, and by a smart run succeeded in placing the leather behind the posts, the same player converting his own try. Some good passing was displayed by Barry. By the call of time, the visitors, although carrying on a good defensive game, failed to score. At half-time the score stood :—Barry, one goal; Whitchurch, nil. In the second half the home men gave their opponents all their work to do, the visitors being kept most of the time in their own ground. A series of scrums were relieved by a free kick for Whitchurch. The home players indulged in some more good passes. A minor conceded to Whitchurch was followed by the ball being taken to within dangerous proximity to the Whitchurch citadel. W. Davies, a second-team man, playing half for Barry, distinguished himself throughout the game, and gained, no doubt, a permanent place in the first team. Another minor was gained by Whitchurch. By this time the venue was changed to the home 25, and several scrums took place, but with a pass from T. Davies, J. Rees ran well across the field to the visitors' 25, but was brought down. After a difficult pass from Rees to Medcroft, the leather was kicked into touch. A touch in goal gave Whitchurch another minor. Play of a give-and-take character followed, and after Barry had secured a minor time was called. Final score: Barry, one goal and one minor; Whitchurch, three minors. The teams were:—Barry—Back, G. Giggs; three-quarter, A. J. Medcroft (captain), J. Rees, J. Jones, and T. Saunders; half-back, J. Davies and T. Davies; forward, D. Lester, T. Williams, James Porter, John Porter, S. Attwell, A. Williams, W. Davies, and J. Williams. Whitchurch—Back, V. Taylor; three-quarter, T. Howells, D. Llewellyn, J. B. Glendenning (captain), and D. M. Thomas; half-back, D. T. Evans and G. L. Morris; forward, E. Townsend, J. H. Hale, E. Smith, F. Harris, W. Rowlands, D. Hopkins, and R. Thomas. Mr T. Lewis, Cogan, was the referee; and Mr E. E. Hopkins acted as umpire for Whitchurch.

Here's a timely reminder that Whitchurch were running a 2nd XV we don't get to hear too much of this team, but this is a useful cutting in that it gives us the names of all the players representing the club at that time, 14th October 1892 The Evening Express. Some of these people were stalwarts, the surnames remaining in the village to this day.

Oliver, B. Jenkins, and N. Griffiths. Kick on at three sharp.

WHITCHURCH v. BARRY.—To be played at Barry. The following will represent Whitchurch:—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining (captain), D. Llewellyn, T. Howells, and D. M. Thomas; half back, G. L. Morris and D. T. Evans; forwards, J. H. Hale, V. Taylor, F. Harris, E. Smith, R. W. Thomas, W. Rowlands, E. Taylor, and David Hopkins.

WHITCHURCH SECOND v. PENARTH WINDMILLERS.—To be played at Whitchurch. The following will represent Whitchurch Second:—Back, Arthur Moss; three-quarter backs, G. Stone, E. Boyer, David Stephens, and H. Hale; half backs, Stockton and W. Solomon; forwards, W. O. James, S. Townsend, G. Boyer, T. Solomon, T. Smith, G. Garland, B. Hopkins, and H. Jenkins.

CONWAY FOOTBALL CLUB v. CARDIFF RANGERS A.—This match will be played at Ely Common.

This would have given the village a huge boost and one we could do with now, 130 years later, (where did it all go wrong?), written by the sports columnist of The Evening Express on 24th October 1892.

I am glad to learn there is a likelihood in the near future of the Whitchurch Cricket and Football Clubs being amalgamated. This will be a step in the right direction, for not only will it engender a feeling of *esprit de corps*, but will place the clubs on a sound financial basis. At the present time both organisations possess some really good men, and if the proposal now talked of can be brought about, the "loveliest village of the plain" will be able to boast of a good amateur athletic, cricket, and football club. Good luck to the proposal, say I!

WELSH ATHLETE.

It adds some substance to the earlier reports, at the beginning of October, when Maindee (Newport) played the first match. No longer the "loveliest village of the plain", swallowed up by an expanding Cardiff boundary, we still have successful sports teams, but our own athletics club has long gone.

On 28th October 1892, fixtures in The Evening Express showed the next game for Whitchurch as being home to Roath.

The match was reported in The Evening Express on 31st October 1892 but we still don't know the outcome although the impression given is that Whitchurch were building a formidable reputation.

victory by seventeen points to sixteen is one to the credit of both sides. * * *

By their performance on Saturday the Whitchurch team have proved themselves to be one of the best in the district. The Roath team are a smart lot of players, and amongst the fifteen are some really good men. But on Saturday, with the exception of Morrison, the full back, the Whitchurch backs were far and away superior to the visitors. The forwards were pretty well matched but immediately the ball got air the home three-quarters simply romped around their opponents. Howells, the Whitchurch half-back, was again to the fore, and did yeoman service for his team. The same may be said of Glendenning and Llewellyn, who were in good form. The visiting forwards worked manfully, but their efforts were constantly neutralised by the play of the home back division. * * *

I have received a strongly-worded complaint from the Grangetown men respecting their treatment in the Sophia Gardens on Saturday. "The

The Whitchurch backs were credited for a dour game on 7th November 1892 against a highly regarded Cardiff Rangers side - The South Wales Daily News

front of him to impede his progress. Lloyd was not in his usual form, and the home custodian beat him, putting in some excellent kicks.

The Cardiff Rangers came to Whitchurch with a good record, having only once suffered defeat, and experienced hard lines in returning home beaten by 1 goal to 1 try. The game was decidedly dull and uninteresting. The visitors' forwards were a powerful lot, but made too much use of their strength in keeping the ball in the scrums. The only redeeming feature of the game was the splendid back play of the home team, particularly at half, where Howells and Evans completely overplayed their opponents.

The failure of the Pontypriddians to inflict a defeat upon the Treorky lads was a severe disappointment to the supporters of the home team. "Ponty" had evidently calculated upon having

A win's a win, regardless.

The next match was a drawn home game against Aberdare published in The South Wales Daily News on 11th November 1892

Thomas; forwards, A. Sweet-Escott, T. H. Thomas, R. Davies, C. Palmer, Dalrymple, L. T. John, W. Watts, and Fred Price. Referee, Mr J. Richardson, Brighthouse Rangers.

WHITCHURCH v. ABERDARE.—Played at Whitchurch on Thursday, a pleasant and interesting game ending in a draw.

EBBW VALE WEDNESDAY v. BRYNMAWR WEDNESDAY.—Played at Brynmawr in fine weather, and ended in a draw. Final score: Brynmawr, 4 minors; Ebbw Vale, 2 minors.

SATURDAY'S LOCAL FIXTURES.

Aberavon—NEATH v. ABERAVON.
 Ammanford—Gowerton v. Ammanford.
 Barry—Cardiff Northern v. Barry.
 Blaina—Cwmcarn v. Blaina Gwent.
 „ —Abercarn v. Blaina 1st XV.

This result on 14th November 1892 in The South Wales Daily News left you in no doubt as to who were the dominant team that day although two of our boys came out of it with some credit.

back, had to do was done well.

The match between Grangetown and Whitchurch at Grangetown proved a very one-sided affair. A great surprise was in store for the visitors, who retired with a heavy defeat. Glendenning and Llewellyn in the back played a fine game for Whitchurch, while for the homesters one and all played a dashing game.

Penygraig and Morryston played a very hard game under most unfavourable conditions. The soil was sloppy, the weather wet, and the ball very greasy. A few minutes after the commence-

A struggle again with the news of another away game loss at 'Treorky', reported by the Pontypridd Chronicle on 25th November 1892

And again at Llwynypia the following week reported in the The South Wales Daily News on 28th November 1892

FINAL SCORE.			
TAIBACH	1	1	0
CLEVELAND	0	1	0
LLWYNPIA v. WHITCHURCH.			
Played at Llwynypia. Llwynypia kicked off. Whitchurch rushed to the line, but did not stop there long. Owing to the heavy state of the ground, neither side made much progress. The Llwynypia forwards, with Edmunds, dribbled across and scored. Hicks converted. Whitchurch worked hard, and succeeded in gaining a lot of ground, but Helliings regained, and got into the visitors' 25. Powell relieved with a good kick. Half-time was called, with the play in the visitors' territory. The visitors kicked across and secured a minor. Even play was now the order of the day, the backs not being able to hold the greasy ball. J. Edmunds again dribbled across, but failed to fall on the ball. Whitchurch got near the ball, but the homesters retaliated with a splendid rush.			
FINAL SCORE.		G. T. M.	
LLWYNPIA	1	2	0
WHITCHURCH	0	0	1
PENYGRAIG v. ABERAVON.			
Played on the Bellevue Ground, in the presence of a fair number of spectators. Mr M. Rees, Penygraig, was the referee. The ground was very sloppy. Prosser,			

FOOTBALL.

TREORKY V. WHITCHURCH.

The above match was played on the Fair Field, Treorky, in fine weather, the ground was in a greasy condition, and the number of spectators, small. Whitchurch kicked off up the gradient, and a scrum was formed in mid-territory, and Ramsay came through with a dribble, Treorky had a free, and rushed the ball to visitors' 25, W. Morgan kicked to near the line, a scrum being formed. D. W. Morgan got possession, and, after a very tricky run, scored a well-earned try, which Ramsay failed to convert. After the drop out, W. Morgan returned with an excellent kick, from a scrum, W. D. Morgan secured the oval from J. Morgan, and passed to T. Duggan who made a good run to the visitors' 25, being collared in fine style by the visiting back. The homesters rushed to near the line, and Chalke, Williams and Lewis, were very conspicuous. D. W. Morgan took the ball over the line, but lost it, thus losing a certain try—Whitchurch touching down. The visitors dropped out, and W. Morgan returned in grand style to visitors' 25. Jos Morgan got the ball, and travelled at a rattling pace, and scored a splendid try, which Duggan failed to improve. After the drop out, the visitors took play to the centre; but the homesters' ups heeling out quickly, enabled J. Morgan to pass to Jos Morgan, who distinguished himself with a strong run and a kick; the visitors again touched down. The homesters again pressed, and the visitors relieved with a long kick, Glendenning now made a splendid run to outside his own 25. S. Williams dribbled over the line, but lost the ball, the visitors touching down. Half-time score—Treorky, 2 tries, 4 minors; Whitchurch nil.

Ramsay restarted, and play settled down in the centre. S. Williams headed a rush to visitors' 25; then the visitors played up, and invaded the homesters' 25 for the first time. Jim Morgan passed to W. D. who passed to Morgar Davies, who made a good run. The homesters again pressed, and scored another minor, still play continued in the visitors' territory for the remaining portion of the game

FINAL SCORE.		G. T. M.
Treorky.....	0	2 6
Whitchurch.....		Nil.

It was a day for the forwards on a muddy ground away at Llwynypia, this being published in The Pontypridd Chronicle on 2nd December 1892 (although Llwynypia didn't get spelt that way).

FOOTBALL.			
LLWYNPIA V. WHITCHURCH.			
<p>Played at Llwynypia. Llwynypia kicked off. Whitchurch rushed to the line, but did not stop there long. Owing to the heavy state of the ground, neither side made much progress. The Llwynypia forwards, with Edmunds, dribbled across and scored. Hicks converted. Whitchurch worked hard, and succeeded in gaining a lot of ground, but Hellings regained, and got into the visitors' 25. Powell relieved with a good kick. Half-time was called, with the play in the visitors' territory. The visitors kicked across and scoring a minor. Even play was the order of the day, the backs not being able to hold the greasy ball. J. Edmunds again dribbled across, but failed to fall on the ball. Whitchurch got near the ball, but the homesters retaliated with a splendid rush.</p>			
FINAL SCORE.			
		G. T. M.	
Llwynypia	1	2	0
Whitchurch	0	0	1

Another difficult day-out was published in The South Wales Daily News on 5th December, Whitchurch at Dowlais.

FINAL SCORE:			
CATHAYS	0	0	0
RANGERS	0	0	0
WHITCHURCH V. DOWLAIS.			
<p>Played on Saturday at Pantyscallog Field. The visitors claimed the right to appoint their own referee, but after a short discussion accepted the Dowlais nominee, Mr F. G. Woodman. The visitors kicked off. Some smart play followed, and Dowlais was awarded a free kick. Mike Butler dribbled in from half-way and obtained a try, which was converted by Hughes. Whitchurch had a free kick, and there was some spirited passing on the part of the visitors, resulting in no point. Another free kick for Dowlais.</p>			
HALF-TIME SCORE:			
DOWLAIS	1	0	0
WHITCHURCH	0	0	0
<p>In the second half play was very stubborn, and Whitchurch had a free kick. Dowlais made two minors and kept play for some time in the visitors' territory. Play continued when it was dusk and the ball could scarcely be seen, and just before the close Aneurin Jones secured another try which Hughes failed to convert. The Dowlais forwards appeared to have the advantage in the scrum, and slightly in the loose play.</p>			
FINAL SCORE.			
		G. T. M.	
DOWLAIS	1	1	2
WHITCHURCH	0	0	0
CANTON QUINS V. CARDIFF NORTHERN.			
<p>Played at the Sophia Gardens Park, before a good assemblage of spectators. The following are the names of the men engaged:</p>			

The last games of 1892 saw fixtures printed in The Evening Express on 30th December 1892 with Whitchurch scheduled to play away at Grangetown.

1892 then was quite a year for the club with a lot of newspaper coverage and some substantial match reports filling the sports pages.

1893

For Whitchurch the scheduled fixture list for the remainder of the season looked like this, a tough schedule for the village club:

13 th Jan	@Machen	2nds vs Barry A
20 th Jan		2nds vs Tongwynlais
28 th Jan	vs Grangetown	2nds @ Cathays A
3 rd Feb	@Barry	2nds home to Machen A
10 th Feb	vs Maindee (Npt)	
17 th Feb	vs Machen	2nds @ Penarth A
24 th Feb	vs Llwynypia	2nds@Llwynypia
10 th March	Dinas Powis	2nds @ Roath
18 th March	vs Machen	2nds @Machen
24 th March	vs Barry	2nds awat vs Conway
7 th Apr	@Cardiff Rangers	2nds vs Cadoxton A
14 th Apr	@Maindee (Newport)	2nds home to Canton Harlequins

(The gaps don't necessarily mean that there was no fixture, only that none could be found).

A bit of a mud bath away at Penygraig and short of a few our regulars didn't help, so it was always going to be a tough day out, 13th February 1893 The South Wales Daily News.

FINAL SCORE :		G. T. M.
NEATH A	0	1 6
PONTYPRIDD A.....	6	0 0
PENYGRAIG v WHITCHURCH.		
<p>Played at Penygraig in showery weather. The ground was a perfect quagmire. Both teams were short of several players. Penygraig kicked off with the wind down the field. The visitors failed to return. M. Rees put in a good kick in the visitors' 25, a minor resulting. The ball having emerged from a scrum in the corner, George Elliott obtained possession and scored easily. The place was a failure. The homesters again pressed hard, and relief was brought to the 25, but the visitors stayed here momentarily. Penygraig worked up close to the line, where a splendid bit of passing occurred, and Stoddart grounded behind the posts. Rees failed to convert. Penygraig soon afterwards made matters lively for their opponents, and attacked the visitors' citadel. Rain had come down in torrents from the commence of the game up to half-time.</p>		
HALF-TIME SCORE :		G. T. M.
PENYGRAIG	0	2 1
WHITCHURCH.....	0	0 0
<p>After the change of ends Penygraig drove their opponents within a yard of the line, where they pressed vigorously for some time. Evan Williams got hold in the 25, and noched a try. The place was a failure. Whitchurch now for the first time since the commencement of the game crossed the division line, where the battle was being fought. The play, however, in the home territory was of a very short duration.</p>		
FINAL SCORE :		G. T. M.
PENYGRAIG	0	3 4
WHITCHURCH.....	0	0 0

On 24th February 1893 The Barry Dock News printed this result, a creditable away draw against Penarth A

D. Griffiths scored twice and U. Frampton once for the winners.
WHITCHURCH v. PENARTH 2ND.—Played at Penarth on Saturday last, resulting in a draw, two minors only being scored by each. Penarth had the best of the game, and were still pressing at "no time."

Two of the Whitchurch players were called up for a trial match on 22nd February, to represent the Cardiff and District Football Union. It would have been a great boost to the village and to the club in particular, this cutting was taken from The South Wales Daily News published on 9th February 1893

being prominent.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL UNION.—TRIAL MATCH.

The following players have been chosen to play in the above trial match on Wednesday, Feb. 22:—

Whites—Back, W. Francis (St David's); three-quarter backs, J. Keepings (Llandaff), E. G. Nicholl, A. M. Hill (Cardiff 2nd), and W. Harris (St David's); half-backs, J. Thomas (Grangetown) and J. Davies (Llandaff); forwards, E. M'Carthy (St David's), Spavin (Grangetown), J. Millward (Llandaff), E. Sawyer (Cardiff Star), W. Wynne (Cardiff 2nd), T. Williams (Barry), T. Tustin (St David's), and J. Dunscombe (Rangers.)

Stripes—Back, H. E. Harris (Llandaff); three-quarter backs, Glendenning (Whitchurch), D. Fitzgerald (St. David's), J. Evans (Grangetown), E. Spillane (Rangers); half-backs, J. Davies (Barry), and Bellamy (St. David's); forwards, W. Welch, F. Jones (St. David's), W. James, J. Taylor (Grangetown), A. Rees (Rangers), J. Chipiain (Llandaff), C. Harding (Canton), and F. G. Hale (Whitchurch).

Reserves—Back, W. Davies; three-quarter backs, W. Flynn, C. Mills, and T. Jones; half-backs, Ryan and Smith; forwards, Waters, Gunstone, Palmer, and J. R. Bartlett.

Occasionally some fixtures don't quite go to plan as we have already witnessed, this was no exception when Llwynypia failed to turn up against Whitchurch which didn't go down well with the sports columnist of The Evening Express, 2nd March 1893 who also opted to suggest a solution to the problem. (Ref left)

The Llwynypia team did not, I am informed fulfil their engagement with Whitchurch on Saturday last, and the latter were, as a consequence very much disappointed. The Llwynypiaites state that their non-appearance at Whitchurch was accounted for by the fact that a misunderstanding had arisen in the selection of a referee, but I am told that this is not the case and my correspondent says that the Rhondda boys laid down a condition that before the first team would journey to Whitchurch the second string of the latter club would have to make its appearance at Llwynypia. As the train arrangements would hardly permit of the Whitchurch seconds reaching Llwynypia before three o'clock, what time (my correspondent asks) would the match at Whitchurch take place—not before five or six o'clock at the earliest.

I have spoken about this non-fulfilment of engagements on several occasions, and again I would suggest that it would be the better for all clubs concerned if some decisive action were taken by the Welsh Union to stop the loose arrangements now existing. For a non-appearance, unless some really valid and genuine excuse were put forward, a heavy penalty should be inflicted.

Mr. D. Llewellyn, the non-secretary of the Llwynypia Football Club, writes as follows:—

Dear Sir,—I notice you have a par in your notes about the Llwynypia-Whitchurch match. Your informant is incorrect. In the first place, we entirely failed to get any definite answer from Whitchurch as to the referee, although we told them repeatedly that we would not come down unless we could agree in this matter. It was only on Saturday morning that we could get the referee's name; but in spite of this we would have gone down if they had kept their engagement in sending their second team here. On Thursday morning the Whitchurch secretary coolly wrote us that they could not possibly send up a second team to Llwynypia, and hoped that it would cause no inconvenience!—and this after we had been to the expense of sending our seconds to Whitchurch. Perhaps your informant is not aware that one of their seconds did come to Llwynypia with the 2.20 train, and found our first fifteen at the station ready to start to Whitchurch with the 2.35 workmen's train. This man told us that the Whitchurch seconds had come to the station but were refused their railway fare by the club, and so refused to start. We suspect that the Whitchurch secretary does not know that our train left fifteen minutes after their seconds ought to have arrived here, and that he deliberately tried to deceive us, for at seven p.m. on Friday night we received the following wire:—"Second team coming up, certain." There was no contradiction on Saturday, and there was no team. In justice to our club we trust you will insert this letter, as we have always loyally kept our engagements, and would have kept this if Whitchurch had acted honourably.

But, the Llwynypia club didn't quite see it the same way, their letter (right) appearing in The Evening Express on the 4th March 1893

This was a good result, 6th March 1893 published in The South Wales Daily News.

FINAL SCORE:		G.	T.	M.
CARDIFF 2ND	.....	5	4	3
TROEDYRHIW	.....	0	1	1

WHITCHURCH v. CAERPHILLY.

These teams played the return match on the Whitchurch grounds, which were in excellent condition. The following constituted the teams:—Whitchurch: Back, V. Taylor; three-quarterbacks, J. B. Glendinning (capt.) D. Llewellyn, J. C. Evans, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, T. Howells and D. T. Evans; forwards, J. H. Hale, W. Oldfield, P. Norton, W. Rowlands, T. Hole, F. Adams, Hale, and Stephens. Caerphilly—Back, E. Thomas; three-quarter backs, G. Fisher (captain), H. Roberts, W. Tilley, and J. Turner; half-backs, W. Harris and A. Morse; forwards, W. Lawrence, H. Pike, J. Morgan, T. Rees, J. Turner, T. Cosslett, J. Edwards, and G. Groggins. Morton, for the homesters, kicked off, but for off-side collaring on the part of the visitors a free was allowed Whitchurch, J. Evans kicking into touch, a scrum following just after. In a minute or two an excellent bout of passing, initiated by Evans, was witnessed on the part of the home quarters, resulting in Glendinning running in, thus drawing first blood, by way of a try for the home men. The kick for goal proved abortive. In the space of a few seconds later, from a pass by Llewellyn, Glendinning succeeded again in doing the trick, Howells this time kicking over the cross-bar from an easy angle. Whitchurch continued to have all their own way till half-time, but they were unable to score anything beyond a minor.

HALF-TIME SCORE.		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH	.....	1	1	1
CAERPHILLY	.....	0	0	0

Play resuming, operations were waged in the visitors' 25, until Llewellyn, securing, ran in, this being in less than two minutes, Howells again doing the necessary conversion. From now till the call of time nothing of interest occurred, operations being waged entirely in the Caerphilly 25. However, just on the call of time, Llewellyn notched a clever try, which Howells negotiated.

FINAL SCORE:		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH	.....	3	1	5
CAERPHILLY	.....	0	0	0

MACHEN v. MOUNTAIN ASH.

The visitors arrived, and the Machen team were

Here's a first from The South Wales Star on 31st March 1893, giving an account of a good home win over Barry.

WHITCHURCH V. BARRY.	
This match was played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch kicked off, and, pressing well, forced play to the Barry 25. A scrum was formed at the centre, and the Whitchurch men, breaking through, rushed the ball up to the Barry goal line. Barry relieved, but play still kept on their side of the field. A minor was conceded Barry, and following the drop out Jack Rees received from a scrum, and ran to the half-way line, where he was brought down. Some scrambling play ensued. From a scrum the ball was passed to D. Llewellyn, who, running well, put in a high kick, and, following up, D. Hole got possession and ran in. The point was not improved. F. Hill scored the second try. The major point was registered. T. Evans, for Whitchurch, received, and, running well, scored. T. Howells again landed a goal. Barry's left wing three-quarter scored their first try. The place kick failed. Final score: Whitchurch, 2 goals, 1 try, and 1 minor; Barry, 1 try.	
SOUTH WALES CUP TIE.	
GRANGETOWN V. NEATH "A."	

The annual meeting was held in August, this cutting reflects well on the club. It gives us a clear impression of those times and just how much value sports clubs and groups bring to a community.

It also emphasises the importance of a legacy that is now part of our heritage contained and stored by The National Library archives.

25th August 1893. The Evening Express

The meeting also didn't escape the attention of The South Wales Daily News who published their account on 25th August 1893 giving us an idea of just who the 'movers and shakers' in the club were. (below)

The annual meeting of the Whitchurch Football Club has just been held. Several changes have been made in the list of officers. The position of captain was unanimously voted to Mr. J. Hale, one of the best forwards the team possesses, while Mr. Cadman Evans was selected as vice-captain. A good, strong committee was also chosen to look after the interests of the club.

There are several sterling good players in the village team, and it only remains for the committee and officers to work together and give the members the encouragement they deserve.

A pleasing feature of the meeting was the sympathetic references made to the sad accident which had befallen Mr. Tom Howells, one of the oldest members of the club. Tom, as he is dubbed, while at work at the Melin-griffith Tinworks about a week ago, by some means or other missed his footing, and one of his legs slipped into the metal pot. His sufferings, of course, must have been terrible; but I am glad to say that he is progressing as well as can be expected. It is gratifying to think that both the members of the football club and the members of the Whitchurch Brass Band, of which organisation Howells is a member, are so sympathetic to their comrade in his affliction.

The following applications for requalification will come before the southern committee at a

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.

The sixth annual meeting of the Whitchurch Football Club was held at the Fox and Hounds. The following officers were elected:— President, Mr J. Allen; vice-president, Mr P. Sharpe; hon. secretary, C. Seaman; treasurer, Mr J. Allen; captain, J. Hale; vice-captain, J. Cadman Evans; committee, Messrs S. Jones, J. H. Lewis, J. Glendinning, W. Stephens, and — Robothan. Mr P. Sharpe was voted to the chair. A vote of sympathy was passed with Mr T. Howells, one of the old members, who has had a rather severe accident to one of his legs while at work at Melin-griffith Tinworks.

C. BRANDAUER & Co.'s Circular-Pointed Pen neither scratch nor spurt, the points being rounded by a new process. Assorted Sample Box for seven

It's worth noting here that the mention of it being the 6th annual meeting might be correct as far as 'meetings' go, but it doesn't give a true reflection of when the club started playing, which we know was in 1885.

At the start of the 1893/94 season The South Wales Daily News, 18th September 1893 showed a charity warm up match which attracted a decent gate much to the credit of the club and to local people for supporting it.

played for the Harp of Erin by 4 goals, 5 tries, and 2 minors, to 1 try and 1 minor.
WHITCHURCH v. T. DAVIES'S TEAM.—This benefit match was played at Whitchurch in the presence of 200 people, resulting in a draw, neither side scoring.
NEWPORT UNITED v. MAINDEE SECONDS.—Played on the Maindee Ground, and ended in a draw. Score:—United 4 minors; Maindee Second. nil.

The reputation of the club has increased over the years to the extent that have now built up a lot of interest with a local following, a growing reputation amongst regional clubs and extensive newspaper coverage.

Just to digress a little, off the Whitchurch theme, this is an interesting piece of local interest and one that will resonate with rugby enthusiasts in the wider area. It was published in The Western Mail on 21st September 1893

NEW CLUB.—At a meeting held at Tynant on Tuesday under the presidency of Mr. H. C. Jobson, Radyr, a football club, to be called the Garth Football Club, was formed. The officers appointed were:—President, Mr. H. O. Fisher; captain, Mr. J. B. Mathew, Taff's Well; treasurer, Mr. J. Samuel, Radyr; and secretary, Mr. A. Roberts, Pentyrch. A strong committee, composed of representatives from the surrounding villages, was selected.
THE GARTH F.C. would like to arrange matches with fairly strong teams.—Secretary: Mr. A. Roberts, Schoolmaster, Pentyrch, Cardiff. [1391a21]

On 28th September 1893 Whitchurch Advertised for fixtures in The South Wales Echo – contact the hon. sec.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB have September 30th open for good club; terms, half-gate.—Address C. H. Seaman, Whitchurch, Cardiff. 325

On 16th October 1893 The South Wales Echo showed a scoreline of Whitchurch 1 try; Grange Stars, Nil.

This cutting from the Barry Dock News dated 27th October 1893 gives us another insight into local rugby developments, here a Whitchurch Junior team beating Pentyrch Juniors at home, but also there was a good result for Tongwynlais in their away game.

Snepton secured the try, and W. Jones converted. S. Williams, for the homesters, kicked the penalty goal.
WHITCHURCH JUNIORS v. PENTYRCH JUNIORS.—Played at Whitchurch on Saturday last, and resulted in a win for the home team by 1 goal, 2 tries to nil, W. J. Parry, W. Stone, and T. Stephens scoring. T. Thomas kicked a splendid goal.
GRANGETOWN STARS v. PENARTH A.—Played at Grange last Saturday, and resulted in a win for the Stars, after a most exciting game, by 1 goal, 2 tries, and 3 minors. R. Norman (2) and A. Dunn (1) scored for the Stars.
BOROUGH JUNIORS v. LLANDOUGH JUNIORS.—Played at Llandough on Saturday last. Result: Borough, 2 tries, 4 minors; Llandough, 1 minor.
PENARTH v. TONYGWYNLAIS.—Played at Penarth last Saturday, resulting in a win for the visitors by 1 goal, 1 try to 1 try, 2 minors.

Here's a good, lengthy account which tends to suggest that The South Wales Daily News were paying a lot of attention to local sport at that time giving extensive coverage to a lot of regional matches, with Whitchurch featuring prominently. This one was published on 30th October 1893. It was a home game in front of a good crowd and it names all the players.

MINORS		FINAL SCORE.		G. T. M.	
MAINDEE	.....	0	1	6	
LLANDAFF	.....	0	0	0	

WHITCHURCH v. GRANGETOWN.

Played at Whitchurch in the presence of a good number of spectators. The following were the teams:—Whitchurch—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, K. Boyer, D. Llewellyn, G. Stephens, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, D. T. Evans and T. Davies; forwards, J. H. Hale (capt.), W. Stephens, H. S. Hale, N. Watkins, E. Parsons, R. Hopkins, F. Adams, and V. Taylor. Grangetown—Back, W. Francis; three-quarter backs, J. Evans (capt.), W. Flynn, C. Mills, and B. Smith; half-backs, P. Ryan and Gus Carthy; forwards, T. M. McCarthy, G. Woodman, J. Spavin, W. James, W. Foakes, H. Gabb, and J. Smith. Referee: Mr W. Ashton, Cardiff and District Union.

Grangetown kicked off, and Evans returned to the centre, where a scrum was formed. D. Llewellyn getting possession kicked into the visitors' 25, and Boyer, following up, prevented the visitors' back from returning. Whitchurch kicked over, and got a minor. Following the kick-out, Grangetown were awarded a free, but did not gain any ground. From a scrum at the centre, J. Evans, the visitors' skipper, got a pass, and kicked into the home territory, where the home back made his mark, but nothing came of it. D. M. Thomas now came off with a fine run to the centre. J. Evans here got a pass, but before he could gain much ground was floored by G. Stephens. G. M. Thomas now picked up, and ran within a few yards of the visitors line, where he was pushed into touch. Give and take play ensued, and eventually Gus Carthy passed to Evans, but he was quickly brought down by D. M. Thomas. B. Smith was now instrumental in taking the oval in the home 25, where he was brought low by D. Llewellyn. Grange, however, took the ball over and got a minor. Whitchurch now, by good play, got near the visitors' line. Grangetown retaliated, and from a scrum near the home line J. Evans was given a pass and scored. The place kick failed. Half-time was now called, the score reading:

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G. T. M.		
GRANGETOWN	0	1	1
WHITCHURCH	0	0	2

W. Stephens re-started for Whitchurch. B. Smith ran well into the home 25. J. Evans, by a long kick, sent the ball over the line, Evans, the home back, touching down. Just after the drop out Grange got into the Whitchurch territory, and Ben Smith got a pass and tried a drop for goal, the ball striking the post. From a scrum in the home territory G. Stephens relieved for Whitchurch by a long kick into touch at the centre. Grange by good play now got into the home 25, where Ryan got the oval and scored behind the posts, J. Evans kicking a fine goal. Following the kick-out Grangetown again were not long before they got into the home territory. Here Tom Davies came off with a fine dribble to the centre. Whitchurch now played up with great determination, and kept their opponents penned in their 25 for some time. The game was stopped owing to Evans, the home back, having a nasty kick, but on resuming the Grange boys again, by excellent play, got into the home 25. Eventually D. Llewellyn, by a long kick, removed play into the visitors' territory. Time was now called, leaving play in the visitors' 25.

FINAL SCORE :		G. T. M.		
GRANGETOWN	1	1	5
WHITCHURCH	0	0	2

CHEPSTOW v. USK.

Played at Chepstow. Up to half-time C. Cumber obtained two tries, and John Lewis one for Chepstow, two of which A. W. Lewis converted. Usk resumed play one short, having to leave. C. Cumber again

Albany	0	2
Plymouth	6	1
At South Devon-			
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The Cardiff Association team will be a very strong one, and they hold at the present time the South Wales Challenge Cup.

At a meeting of the committee of the Cardiff and District Union, the following team was selected to represent the Union in the Rugby match on Monday against Mr C. S. Arthur's team, which will precede the Association game:—Back, C. Kelly (Cathays); three-quarter backs, D. N. Thomas (Whitchurch), D. Radley (Llandaff), J. Evans (Grangetown), C. Mills; half-backs, T. Ryan (Grange), A. Carthy (Grange); forwards, D. R. Goss (Cathays), H. Jones (Cathays), T. McCarthy (Grangetown), J. Spavin (Grangetown), H. James (Grangetown), G. Woodman (Grangetown), J. H. Hale (Whitchurch), M. Carthy (Northern).

Mr W. M. Shepherd, of the Cardiff Club, will referee in the Rugby match, and for the Association game probably Mr Axtell, secretary of the South Wales Football League, will act in a similar capacity.

The Borderers are to arrive in Cardiff by the 4.52 p.m. train from Plymouth on Sunday, the 12th inst., and they will return early on the

(Left) ... In November 1893 it seems that the Cardiff and District Union (rugby) were working in harmony with the Cardiff Football Association (football / soccer) having arranged an event that had a rugby match precede a football match, good value if you had a ticket. 9th November 1893 The South Wales Daily News.

Things are not going our way, a lengthy account published on 13th November 1893 in The South Wales Daily News of the Whitchurch away game at Sophia Gardens against Cardiff Northern

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WHITCHURCH v CARDIFF NORTHERN.

These teams met for the first time this season at the Sophia Gardens, in the presence of a fair number of onlookers. The following were the teams:—*Whitchurch*—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, E. Boyer, G. Stephens, D. Llewellyn, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, W. Salmon and D. T. Evans; forwards, J. H. Hale (captain), W. Stephens, G. Owen, E. Parsons, V. Taylor, R. Hopkins, N. Watkins, and D. Hopkins. *Northern*—Back, T. Savage; three-quarter backs, T. Morgan, C. Williams, R. Davies, and A. M. Ricketts; half-backs, F. K. Wheeler (captain) and W. T. Lewis; forwards, M. McCarthy, T. Leary, T. Gunstone, T. Williams, D. Morgan, T. Boase, S. Tarr, and W. Arnot. Referee, Mr Percy Bennett.

W. Stephens kicked off for Whitchurch. The home back returned into touch in the visitors' territory. Parsons broke through a scrum in the Whitchurch 25, and removed play to the centre. Wheeler now got possession, but was floored by Thomas before he could gain any ground. Stephens kicked into touch near the home line. From the line out the Northerners worked back to the centre, where tight scrums ensued. Lewis passed to Williams, who was quickly floored by Stephens. Eventually the Northerners worked near the visitors' line. Wheeler kicked over, Evans touching down. Following the drop-out, Evans, the visitors' back, got hurt and had to retire. From a scrum near the visitors' line, Stephens and Llewellyn were instrumental in taking the oval into the Northerners' 25, where play remained for some time. G. Stephens now, by good play, got near the home line, where he was stopped by Morgan. The Northerners now had a free, and gained considerable ground. From a scrum at the centre Salmon got a pass and ran well into the home 25.

HALF-TIME SCORE.		G.	T.	M.
NORTHERN	.....	0	0	1
WHITCHURCH	.....	0	0	0

On resuming play Evans returned to the centre. Morgans kicked well into the Whitchurch 25, where a scrum was formed. Lewis here got possession of the oval and ran in with a fine try, the place failed. Just after the kick out the Northerners, who were playing a fine game, got near the visitors' line, where several scrums were formed. D. M. Thomas relieved with a short run. Stephen now got a pass, and after a short run, punted into touch in the home 25. From a scrum at the centre Tommy Morgan, by a long run, got near the visitors' line, where he was neatly floored by Taylor. Whitchurch now, by good play, worked back to the centre, where D. M. Thomas got a pass, and got very near the home line, where he was collared by Morgan, who played a good game throughout. Whitchurch now had very hard lines in not scoring. Time was now called, leaving play in the centre.

FINAL SCORE:		G.	T.	M.
CARDIFF NORTHERN	0	1	1
WHITCHURCH	0	0	0

NEATH v MORRISTON.

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On the same day (13th Nov) The South Wales Echo published an update on the Cardiff and District Union's representative side in which two players from Whitchurch had been selected.

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The first contest, which should prove a highly interesting one, will be a strong team got together by the popular secretary of the Cardiff Football Club, Mr C. S. Arthur, and a representative fifteen of the Cardiff and District Union. The time fixed upon to commence is 2.30, so that all players, to prevent any delay, should make an effort to put in an appearance at the Angel Hotel at two o'clock sharp. The teams will be as follows:—*Mr C. S. Arthur's XV.* Back, Alun Morgan (Pontypridd); three-quarter backs, H. Alexander (Penarth), C. S. Arthur (Cardiff), D. Fitzgerald (Cardiff), and Smithson (Cardiff); half-backs, W. E. Jarman (Cardiff) and G. Shepherd (Penarth); forwards, A. E. Hill, A. F. Bland, R. Guinea, R. Davies, T. Dobson, Herbert Jones S. Cravos, and T. H. Thomas (Cardiff). *District Union XV.*—Back, C. Kelly (Cathays); three-quarter backs, D. N. Thomas (Whitchurch), D. Radley (Llandaff), J. Evans (Grangetown), C. Mills; half-backs, T. Ryan (Grange), A. Carthy (Grange); forwards, D. R. Goss (Cathays), H. Jones (Cathays), T. McCarthy (Grangetown), J. Spavin (Grangetown), H. James (Grangetown), G. Woodman (Grangetown), J. H. Hale (Whitchurch), M. Carthy (Northern).

MR WM. GUNN, THE CELEBRATED NOTTINGHAM CRICKETER, writing from the County Cricket Ground, 14, Carrington-street, Nottingham.

On 20th November 1893 The South Wales Daily News published this little gem of an article for the Whitchurch home game against Dowlais.

WHITCHURCH v. DOWLAIS.

These teams met at Whitchurch, in the presence of a fair number of spectators. Neither of the teams were fully represented. Parsons kicked off for Whitchurch, and the visitors' back replied into touch at the centre. From the line-out the visitors got well into the home 25, where several scrums were formed. Eventually Radley Thomas here got possession, and, after a really magnificent run, scored behind the uprights. Glendenning made a good attempt, but failed. Immediately after the kick-out Woodman, for the visitors, got a pass, and ran well into the home 25, where he was neatly brought down by Parsons. Dowlais now got near the home line, where scrums ensued, and one of the forwards dashed over with a try. The place failed. Just after the drop-out the visitors again got into the home territory, and had hard lines in not scoring. Dowlais now, by long kicks, got several minors. Half-time was now called, leaving play near the home line.

HALF-TIME SCORE:		G. T. M.
WHITCHURCH		0 1 0
DOWLAIS		0 1 4

Immediately after re-starting Whitchurch had much the best of matters, and kept the visitors penned in their 25 for fully a quarter of an hour. G. Glendenning now ran well, and was pushed into touch when near the line. Whitchurch now got 3 minors in quick succession. Time was now called—

FINAL SCORE.		G. T. M.
WHITCHURCH		0 1 3
DOWLAIS		0 1 4

RISCA v. CARDIFF NORTHERN.

1894

A good start to the New Year with a hard earned win away at Barry, The South Wales Daily News, 1st January 1894

BARRY v. WHITCHURCH.		
Played on the Buttrills Ground, Barry, before a good number of spectators. Teams:—		
<i>Barry</i> —Back, G. Clemence; three-quarters, J. Rees, J. Jones, G. Giggs and A. J. Medcroft; half-backs, J. Davies (capt.) and T. Davies; forwards, J. Dooley, A. Williams, R. Phillips, T. Evans, T. Hughes, Westall, W. Rees, and J. Porter. <i>Whitchurch</i> —Back, T. John; three-quarter backs, J. Glendinning, T. Stephens, Frampton and Parry; half-backs, D. Evans and N. Watkins; forwards, E. Parsons, V. Taylor, Trathen, D. Hopkins, Adams, Hopkins, Harris, and Webber. Referee, Mr C. Penn Grangetown F.C.		
Barry started the oval, and play settled down in the visitors' 25. Through the erratic passing of the homesters the leather was worked into the Barry quarters. Here, by good combined play of the halves, the ball was carried again to the Whitchurch quarters, where T. Davies gaining possession and eluding his opponents with ease transferred to J. Davies, the latter dashing over with a good try. The place-kick failed. The visitors, re-starting with a good rush, caught the homesters napping, which resulted in J. Glendinning scoring a try, the same player converting.		
HALF-TIME SCORE.		
	G.	T. M.
WHITCHURCH	1	0 0
BARRY	0	1 1
Whitchurch re-starting, play being waged near the visitors' citadel. Rees, Giggs, and Jones experiencing hard lines in not scoring, being within a yard of the		

MONDAY, JANUARY

line on each occasion. Again, for the off-side play of the Whitchurch halves, the homesters were awarded a free kick in a difficult angle near the visitors' line, the place-kick just failing. The drop-out again brought no relief to the visitors, the Barryites' forwards giving plenty of work to the quartette enabled them to get on several occasions within an ace of scoring. J. Davies here again scored a try, which was left unconverted. Again the drop-out made no alteration. Glendinning, showing his speed, stopped another certain try by kicking out of bounds. The visitors again re-starting, and the Barryites keeping up their play, kept Whitchurch still on the defence. Soon afterwards time was called.

FINAL SCORE :		
	G.	T. M.
BARRY	0	2 5
WHITCHURCH	1	0 0

DAFEN v. CARMARTHEN.

Played on the Stradey Ground before a fair number of spectators. This cup match was looked forward to

Shortly afterwards on 3rd January 1894 The Evening Express published a brief article outlining the draw for The Mallett Cup, naming the clubs 'invited' to play, Whitchurch being among them. According to research this would have been the first Mallett Cup and is still played for today. It is believed to be the second-oldest Rugby Cup in Britain,

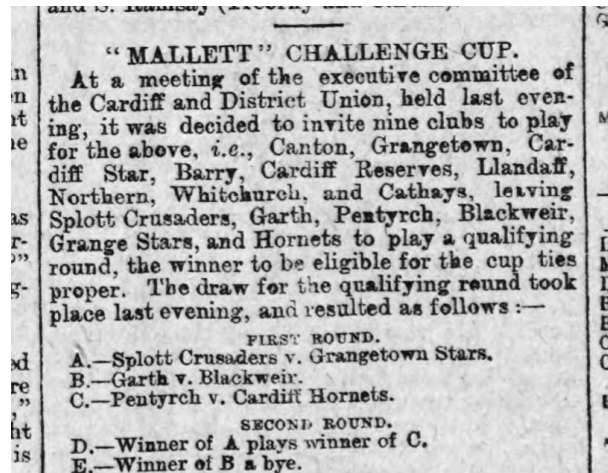
On the 5th January The Barry Dock News reported on the Barry game with Whitchurch played at The Buttrills Ground, but not a great day for us.

BARRY v. WHITCHURCH.		
Played on the Buttrills Ground, Barry, on Saturday last, before a good number of spectators. <i>Barry</i> :—Back, G. Clemence; three-quarters, J. Rees, J. Jones, G. Giggs, and A. J. Medcroft; half-backs, J. Davies (captain) and T. Davies; forwards, J. Dooley, A. Williams, R. Phillips, T. Evans, T. Hughes, J. Westall, W. Rees, and J. Porter. <i>Whitchurch</i> :—Back, T. John, three-quarters, J. Glendinning, T. Stephens, Frampton, and Parry; half-backs, D. Evans and N. Watkins; forwards, E. Parsons, V. Taylor, Trathen, D. Hopkins, Adams, Hopkins, Harris, and Webber. Referee, Mr C. Penn, Grangetown F.C. Barry started the oval, and play settled down in the visitors' 25. Through the erratic passing of the homesters the leather was worked into the Barry quarters. Here, by good combined play of the halves, the ball was carried again to the Whitchurch quarters, where T. Davies gaining possession and eluding his opponents with ease transferred to J. Davies, the latter dashing over with a good try. The place-kick failed. The visitors, re-starting with a good rush, caught the homesters napping, which resulted in J. Glendinning scoring a try, the same player converting. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, one goal; Barry, one try one minor. Whitchurch re-started, play being waged near the visitors' citadel. Rees, Giggs, and Jones experienced hard lines in not scoring, being within a yard of the		

line on several occasions. Again, for the off-side play of the Whitchurch halves, the homesters were awarded a free kick in a difficult angle near the visitors' line, the place-kick just failing. The drop-out again brought no relief to the visitors, the Barry forwards giving plenty of work to the quartette enabled them to get on several occasions within an ace of scoring. J. Davies here again scored a try, which was left unconverted. Again the drop-out made no alteration. Glendinning, showing his speed, stopped another certain try by kicking out of bounds. The visitors again re-started, and the Barryites keeping up their play, kept Whitchurch still on the defence. Soon afterwards time was called. Final score:—Barry, two tries and five minors; Whitchurch, one goal.
OTHER MATCHES.

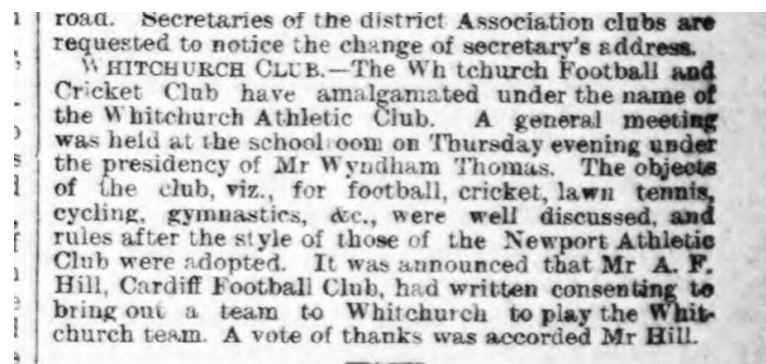
On 31st March 1894, The Evening Express commented on team selections for a Cardiff game in which "Radley Thomas a Whitchurch man, who has proved himself rather smart during the season" had been picked to play on the wing.

The first Mallett Cup final saw Cardiff Reserves play Canton on Saturday, April 14, 1894, at the Harlequins Ground in Cardiff's Minster Road and playing that day for the Cardiff side was a 19-year-old Gwyn Nicholls, who 11 years later led Wales to victory over New Zealand at Cardiff Arms Park.



September

This was a 'turn up for the books' it makes you wonder who saw this coming, 1st September 1894 The South Wales Echo



For many this must have been considered as being the best way forward. It's clear from this that, those at the helm, had great ambition and had a vision that the village should and could have an all encompassing sports club. It's an ambition not lost on some today and given the difficulties local clubs face, perhaps it's a proposal that's worthy of consideration now. However, governance of such an organisation would need a great deal of careful thought.....

Algernon Frank Hill, mentioned above, was an excellent forward, who captained Cardiff in 1887/88 and 1894/95. He joined the club in 1883/84, playing 153 first team matches, and served the club for a total of nine seasons earning his club cap. He played 12 matches for Wales between 1885 and 1893 and another 3 matches in 1894. He is commemorated in the Cardiff Rugby Museum. (It's likely that he lived in Whitchurch, judging by his involvement and association with the club and with what follows, but this is just conjecture, not researched).

The start of some very prestigious fixtures might well have begun with this game, it was a Whitchurch match against a Cardiff team organised by A. F. Hill. To offset the power of a 1st class outfit of

Cardiff's status, Whitchurch were allowed to field 18 players. Whitchurch however were also blessed with some class players themselves, one, L Radley Thomas, eventually 'going North'.

The news that the Whitchurch cricket and football clubs had amalgamated was also publicised by other papers, this (right) going out on 1st September 1894 in The Evening Express.

While two weeks later, 15th September 1894, this (below) appeared in The Evening Express

Mr. Wyndham Thomas, of the Melingriffith Tin-plate Company, an enthusiastic athlete, has contributed largely to the success which has, up to the present time, attended the negotiations. Ere long, therefore, Whitchurchtonians will be able to boast of a well organised athletic club. To open the football season Mr. A. F. Hill will take up a team on Wednesday, the 19th inst., while the representatives of the village will have the services of Radley Thomas, J. Glendining, W. H. Jones (old Cardiffian), Hubert Thomas (Gloucester), and several other good players. The amalgamation has been a blessing in disguise for the Whitchurch Club, as both old and new members are now extremely enthusiastic, while several good players from the Llandaff district are likely to be merged into the new organisation.

WHITCHURCH ATHLETICS.
Proposed Amalgamation of the Cricket and Football Clubs.

On Thursday evening Mr. Wyndham Thomas, of the Melingriffith Tin-plate Company, presided over a well-attended meeting of Whitchurch athletes at the National Schoolroom, the object being the furthering of the proposed amalgamation of the cricket and football clubs, and the formation, if possible, of an athletic club.—The Chairman stated that the amalgamation of the football and cricket clubs was an accomplished fact.—The rules of the proposed club were then gone through seriatim, and were eventually approved; but with regard to the ground, viz., the field near the Fox and Hounds Inn, there appeared to be a hitch. Mr. Allen, the occupier of the inn, holds out that the terms of the letting should be during his occupancy, but the members of the club do not think it would pay them to expend from £50 to £100 in making the necessary provisions upon such an agreement. Negotiations are, however, proceeding, which it is hoped will result in a satisfactory settlement. To open the football season Mr. A. F. Hill has promised to take his Cardiff champions to play on the new ground on Wednesday, the 19th inst. Mr. V. Taylor is the captain of the Whitchurch team, and Messrs. S. Jones and C. Evans are the joint secretaries.

11th September 1894 The Evening Express:

form, I should say the competition will be won by either the Grangetown Odd Stockings or the Cottage Boys (Grangetown Stars).

A Cardiff team (A. F. Hill's) is to play eighteen of Whitchurch and district at Whitchurch on Wednesday, September 19. Whitchurch are turning out a very strong team, such players as R. H. Cattell (Oxford University), Hubert Thomas (Gloucester), Rowland (Moseley), H. M. Ingledeu (Cardiff), L. Radley Thomas (Cardiff), etc., etc., having promised to play. The kick off is timed for five o'clock.

The Leigh Football Club are apparently

More on these developments was published in The Western Mail on 17th September 1894 outlining all the optimism that local people felt at that time.

It's great to read that a 'suitable field' had been secured, albeit for such a short term, but what a great step forward that must have been and one that we envy today for all our sports clubs. Don't be fooled however by the description of it being in the 'centre of the village'. At that time the main part of the village was still in the area around The Fox and Hounds and the old St Mary's church.

a fairly warm lot to represent the club.

The prospects of the Whitchurch Football Club are more rosy this year than they have been for a long time past. Within the past six months matters athletic have come to the front in "the loveliest village of the plain." Several well-known athletes have interested themselves in the matter, and have succeeded in amalgamating the cricket and football clubs. The fusion is now an accomplished fact. A suitable field in the centre of the village has been leased for a term of twelve years, and a sum not far short of £100 will be laid out in the erection of a stand and making the necessary provision for players, ground members, &c.

Mr. Wyndham Thomas, of the Melingriffith Tin-plate Company, an enthusiastic athlete, has contributed largely to the success which has, up to the present time, attended the negotiations. Ere long, therefore, Whitchurchtonians will be able to boast of a well organised athletic club. To open the football season Mr. A. F. Hill will take up a team on Wednesday next, while the representatives of the village will have the services of Radley Thomas, J. Glendinning, W. H. Jones (old Cardiffian), Hubert Thomas (Gloucester), and several other good players. The amalgamation has been a blessing in disguise for the Whitchurch Club, as both old and new members are now extremely enthusiastic, while several good players from the Llandaff district are likely to be merged into the new organisation.

The 1,000 yards match between Bacon and Radley, which was agreed upon by both parties

Now the press couldn't get enough. This article (right) was published in The Evening News on 18th September 1894, the publicity would have really captured public imagination.

More details were published in The Evening Express on 19th September 1894 (below).

Hope, rough, Lass, Norse-gruel, lding, raffan, Royal Mun, token, stage, Wild
g.
Lake, yrtle,
year s ex-Six
tes 1
dt 2
tes 3

The match at Whitchurch this afternoon between Mr. A. F. Hill's team and Eighteen of Whitchurch should provide an interesting game. The lateness of the start—five o'clock—ought to make it easy for many Cardiff enthusiasts to journey to the little village to see the first good match of the season in this district. Seeing that Mr. A. F. Hill's team includes several Cardiff first teamers, the result of the game should provide an augury whereby to judge what the form of the blue and blacks will be like through the ensuing season. The Whitchurch team is a very strong one and, what with the extra number of players, ought to make it pretty hot for the Cardiffians.

Mr. L. P. Marshall, of Cowbridge, playing

The Whitchurch football season was opened on Saturday under the auspices of the newly-formed athletic club. The teams were composed of the football and cricket members of the new organisation. The play was interesting, and the critics who were present expressed themselves exceedingly sanguine as to the future prospects of the team. On Wednesday next the new ground will be opened, when Mr. A. F. Hill's Cardiff team will make their first appearance at Whitchurch. A good game is expected, as the village boys have been preparing themselves for the occasion, and their ranks will be strengthened by the inclusion of many well-known players.

The following will represent "the village":
—Back, J. E. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, Geo. Stephens, D. R. Thomas, and H. Thomas; half-backs, T. Howells, W. Edney, and J. Chard; forwards, V. Taylor, Collins, Wellings, E. Bayer, H. W. Jones, A. J. Hybart, F. Lee, G. S. Morris, Tom Davies, and another. It will be seen that amongst the forwards are two players who in past years did so much to uphold the reputation of the bold blue and black, viz., Messrs. A. J. Hybart and H. W. Jones, while two recent importations into the ranks of the teams of the town on the banks of the Taff, viz., Messrs. Radley Thomas and G. S. Morris, will also on Wednesday don the colours of Whitchurch.

WELSH ATHLETE.

Wharton Juniors Football Club have open dates for Wednesday matches.—D. Bolton, Secretary, 14, St. Mary street, Cardiff. e5321a18

It leaves you in doubt that Whitchurch had prepared well, had strengthened the side in order to give Cardiff a good game and had viewed it as being a highly prestigious event. The Western Mail, on 19th September 1894 published the player names of both teams.

Total 267 Total

FOOTBALL.

A. F. HILL'S TEAM V. EIGHTEEN OF WHITCHURCH AND DISTRICT.

This match will be played at the new Athletic Ground of the latter club to-day (Wednesday). Kick-off at five p.m. Teams:—Whitchurch: Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, D. M. Thomas, G. Stephens, Glendinning, and H. Thomas; half-backs, Edney, Chard, and Howells; forwards, Taylor (captain), H. W. Jones, A. J. Hybart, Morris, Boyer, Lee, T. Davies, M'Carthy, W. Phillips, and A. Lewis. A. F. Hill's Team: Back, Alun Morgan; three-quarter backs, H. Alexander, Elliott, W. J. Evans, and Smithson; half backs, E. Sweet-Escott and T. Seeley; forwards, A. F. Hill, Cravos, E. Davies, Elsey, Emery, Welsh, Wallace, and Pritchard.

It's fair to say that one or two of those players had been recruited from other teams (at least one from Llandaff Yard).

So, how did they got on? Well, of all the newspaper write ups this from The Western Mail, 20th September 1894, is probably the best to display here..

shortly be made.

WHITCHURCH V. MR. A. F. HILL'S TEAM.

What was in reality a practice match between a Cardiff sixteen and seventeen of the district took place at Whitchurch on Wednesday afternoon. The visitors were mostly made up of Cardiff players, whilst in the ranks of Whitchurch were men that have before now represented the Welsh Metropolitans, old Harlequin players, and others from the local clubs. A good crowd was present when, at a few minutes past five Hill started the game for the visitors. The opening exchanges were slightly in favour of the home seventeen. When, however, the men had warmed to their work, play settled in the centre, and was for a time fairly even. Alun Morgan, who acted as custodian for the visiting team, early maintained his reputation, and on several occasions brought off some clever saves, whilst on the other side Radley Thomas and Glendenning were conspicuous with some smart defensive work. The first really dangerous attack was initiated by Prole, who, skipping away from behind the pack, started Seeley and W. J. Evans going, with the result that the last-mentioned fought his way over with a try, which Alun Morgan just failed to convert. Seeley initiated the next attack, and, dodging through the Whitchurch third line, transferred to Smithson, who scored the only other point of this half. At the interval the score stood:—Hill's Team, two tries; Whitchurch, nil. The second half was even livelier than the first, and play at the outset was fairly even. The visitors attacked for the first ten minutes, then Whitchurch, wheeling a scrimmage, took play to the other end of the ground. From the next scrum Phillips started a pretty bit of dribbling, which ended in Glendenning scoring a try, which Phillips just missed converting. After this there was a brief spell of mid-field play. Then the Cardiff backs started some passing, but Whale, on the extreme left, missed, and Glendenning being handy, snapped up the ball, and, shooting by the visiting custodian, equalised matters by putting on a second try, which Howells failed to convert. The Whitchurch men had not yet, however, finished. One of them sent a long kick back to Morgan, who, in attempting to field it, stumbled, and again Glendenning was to the front. First a flying kick and then a follow up saw the Whitchurch man for the third time over the visiting line. The major point was, however, again missed. In the last two or three minutes Whale had an opening and made a smart run half the length of the field, but was brought down in the corner by the home custodian. There was a bit of scrambling play hereabouts, which ended in Hill getting over, but the point not being converted, the game ended in a draw, the score standing:—A. F. Hill's Team, three tries; Whitchurch, three tries.

BARRY RUGBY CLUB.

Here's a welcome good gate at home to Penarth, probably keeping the club afloat for some time, unfortunately the result didn't go our way, 8th October 1894 in The South Wales Daily News.

NEWPORT A	1	0	1
PONTYMOILE	0	0	2

PENARTH v. WHITCHURCH.

Played at Whitchurch, before about 300 spectators, Whitchurch kicked off, and Penarth failing to reply play settled inside their 25, but after a capital round of passing they scored a minor. On the kick-off Whitchurch played up well, C. Evans taking the ball from half-way and scored the first try, the shot at goal failing. After this play was mostly on the Whitchurch side of the ground, Knight scoring a penalty goal for Penarth, Angove and Dewar likewise scoring a try each for Penarth, both of which kicks failed to procure the major point.

FINAL SCORE:		G. T. M.
PENARTH	*1	2 4
WHITCHURCH	0	1 1

*Penalty goal.

EBBW VALE v. ABERGAVENNY.

Played on the ground of the former. Both teams were strongly represented. Windsor James started

On 9th October 1894 Whitchurch (and Llandaff Yard) advertised for fixtures in The South Wales Echo.

FOOTBALL.

WHITCHURCH F.C.—The 1st XV. have October 13 open, and 2nd XV. October 20, 27, December 1st, March 25rd.—Apply F. C. Evans, Whitchurch. 395

LLANDAFF YARD F.C. require match (home) next Saturday, with good team; other dates open.—Phelps, Llandaff Station. 398

MERTHYR VALE 2ND XI. (Association) requires home and home matches with good junior teams; the 1st XI. have also open dates.—Write at once Edwin R. Lewis, 8, Belle Vue, Merthyr Vale. 430e

YNYSYBWL F.C. have several Open Dates for Medium First or good Second-class Team; also dates for above A Team.—Write E. Williams, 141, Robert-street, Ynysybwl. 242

WHAETON ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB wish to arrange Wednesday matches with local clubs. home

Whitchurch Football Club Second Fifteen want Home Match on Saturday Next; will give return.—Apply J. C. Evans, Whitchurch. e5950d15

On the 15th November 1894 the club Advertised for 2nd team fixtures in

The Evening Express and on the 16th November 1894 the paper printed the names of the Whitchurch 1st and 2nd teams for their respective matches against Penrhiw Rovers and Cathays'Quins'.

Solomon, T. Weaton, and E. Dallimore.

Whitchurch v. Penrhiw Rovers.—To be played at Whitchurch. The home team will be: Back, W. Parry; three-quarter backs, J. B. Gledinning, G. Stephens, D. Chislett, and W. P. Thomas; half-backs, D. Stephens and D. T. Evans; forwards, B. Hopkins, V. Taylor (captain), T. Hole, R. Hopkins, W. Sprudd, T. Davies, Tom John, and W. Broad.

Whitchurch Seconds v. Cathays 'Quins'—To be played at the Barracks Field. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, C. Seaman, Thos. Thomas, T. Evans, and Ed. Evans; half-backs, W. Nicholas and Ivor A. George; forwards, D. Davies (captain), T. Adams, W. Winter, E. Bale, W. Thomas, J. Hurman, Jesse Llewellyn, and E. Townsend.

Abercarn v. Risca.—To be played at Risca. Aber-

A scoreline that didn't escape the press was this loss to Caerphilly from The South Wales Daily News 22nd October 1894

MOUNTAIN ASH	1	2	0
PONTNEWYDD	0	1	0
WHITCHURCH v. CAERPHILLY.			
Played at Caerphilly.			
HALF-TIME SCORE :			
CAERPHILLY	1	1	0
WHITCHURCH	0	0	0
FINAL SCORE :			
CAERPHILLY	3	1	0
WHITCHURCH	1	0	0
GRANGETOWN v. CANTON			

This team sheet for the Cardiff Northern fixture at Sophia Gardens was published in The Evening Express on 23rd November 1894

W. Barnes, and T. Davies.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL UNION
LEAGUE COMPETITION.

CARDIFF NORTHERN V. WHITCHURCH.

To be played at the Sophia Gardens. Teams:—
 Northern: Back, C. Williams; three-quarter backs,
 R. Foster, E. J. J. Spillane, J. Driscoll, and A. M.
 Ricketts; half backs, S. Davies and D. Bellamy;
 forwards, F. P. Williams (captain), M. Carthy, M.
 Leary, E. L. C. Jones, H. Daw, F. Owen, D. R. Goss, D.
 Owen, and J. R. Childs. Whitchurch: Back, D.
 Llewellyn; three-quarter backs, F. B. Glendinning,
 Geo. Stephens, N. Watkins, and D. Chrisslett;
 half backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, V.
 Taylor (captain), W. P. Thomas, G. L. Morris, B.
 Hopkins, W. Sprudd, G. Bennett, W. Stephens, and
 Tom John.

A brief account of the Whitchurch game against Blackweir was published in The South Wales Daily News on 26th November 1894, but no scoreline.

with judgment and precision. Spillane and Williams ably attended him.

The Whitchurch lot, who showed a marked improvement on their form against Blackweir, had for a large part of the game to act strictly on the defensive. Their kicking and tackling was generally safe. Glendinning and Stephens put in a lot of good work. Between the halves there was little to choose. The Whitchurch pair, although playing behind a somewhat weaker pack, were very smart. Owen notably was continually in evidence. Both packs played an honest game, dribbling and packing with considerable skill.

Games coming thick and fast now, on 30th November 1894, The Evening Express showed this team sheet for the next match, home, against Great Western (Pontypridd) and the 2nds away at Cathays.

W. Morgan and A. Summers; forwards, D. Woods, T. Murphy, W. Elliott, T. Davies, T. Keelan, W. Barnes, W. Emery, and T. Gilligan.

Whitchurch v. Great Western (Pontypridd).—To be played at Whitchurch. Kick off at 2.45 sharp. The home team will be: Back, D. Llewellyn; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, D. R. Thomas, and D. Chrisslett; half-backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, V. Taylor, W. P. Thomas, E. Emery, B. Hopkins, Tom John, T. Hole, W. Sprudd, and G. Bennett.

Whitchurch & Second Fifteen v. Cathays 'Quins.—To be played at Cathays.—Whitchurch team: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. Pattinson, W. Parry, T. Thomas, and C. Seaman; forwards, W. Broad, W. Thomas, E. Bale, C. Howells, J. Hurman, T. Adams, J. Llewellyn, and R. Evans.

Wattstown v. Treforest Wanderers.—To be played at Wattstown. Teams.—Wattstown: Back, Thomas

On 3rd December 1894 The Western Mail reported on a Whitchurch home game, played against one of the Ponty teams of their day.

**WHITCHURCH V. GREAT WESTERN,
PONTYPRIDD.**

These teams met at Whitchurch in fine weather. Taylor kicked off for Whitchurch, W. Williams returning to touch. The line-out saw the Whitchurch men settle to their work, and R. Thomas nearly scored, being grassed by Jones, the Great Western full back. Pontypridd soon drove them back to the centre, where some scrums were fought out. From one of these D. Owen got hold and passed to Thomas, and a fine bout of passing ended in Chisslett scoring. The point was, however, not improved upon. Glendinning soon afterwards scored in the corner for Whitchurch. This point also was not improved upon. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, two tries; Great Western, nil. After the usual interval W. Morgan re-started for Great Western, Stephen returning to touch. The Great Western men at once made an attack and rushed down the field with the ball at their feet, and scored a fine try, which was not improved upon. The game was of a give and take character for some time, until Glendinning scored his second try, which was not improved upon. Thomas was the next to score for Whitchurch, his try being improved upon. Final score:—Whitchurch, one goal, three tries; Great Western, one try.

On 7th December 1894 The Evening Express showed the team selections for a Whitchurch home game against Barry and for the record the paper also included the full team for the 2nds for their game against Ely United...

D. Woods, W. Elliott, T. Murphy, W. Emery, J. Hayes, T. Davies, T. Sizzlian, and T. Heelan.

Whitchurch v. Barry.—To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, J. C. Evans; three quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, V. Tolyar (captain), and D. Chislett; half backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, W. P. Thomas, G. Bennett, T. Hole, W. Stephens, T. John, W. Oldfield, W. Sprudd, and H. Jenkins.

Whitchurch Seconds v. Ely United.—To be played at Ely. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. Pattinson, W. Parry (captain), T. Thomas, and C. Seaman; half-backs, Wm. Nicholas and J. George; forwards, E. Bale, C. Howells, R. Evans, W. Thomas, D. T. Evans, W. Salaman, T. Adams, and W. Broad.

St. Andrew's v. Roath Hornets.—To be played at Roath Park. Kick-off at 3.15 sharp. St. Andrew's team: Back, H. Winfield; three-quarter backs, T.

The club's involvement in the Cardiff and District Union was there for all to see with their position on display in the Senior League - The Evening Express on 8th December 1894.

The position of the clubs in the Cardiff and District Union League competition are, up to and including Saturday last, as follows:—

SENIOR LEAGUE							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A. Points.	
Cardiff Northern	5	5	0	0	37	3	10
Canton	2	2	0	0	17	0	4
Barry	4	1	0	0	3	27	2
Whitchurch	2	0	2	0	0	24	0
Grangetown	4	3	0	1	23	6	7
JUNIOR LEAGUE							
Roath	4	3	0	1	23	6	7
Cathays United	4	3	1	0	8	6	5
Blackweir	4	2	2	0	13	11	4
Pentyrch	4	1	2	1	18	8	3
Grange Stars	3	1	2	0	6	9	2
St. Mary's	3	0	3	0	0	18	0

"WELSH ATHLETE."

It's clear then that, for part of the season, the club were committed to a competitive league system as part of their involvement with the Cardiff and District Union.

Having mentioned the Barry game earlier, this is what transpired, 10th December 1894, The Western Mail

the visiting pack.

WHITCHURCH V. BARRY.

This match was played at Whitchurch in fine weather, before about 200 spectators. The following were the teams:—Whitchurch: Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, V. Taylor (captain), and D. Chislett; half backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, W. P. Thomas, G. Bennett, T. Hole, W. Stephens, T. John, W. Oldfield, W. Sprudd, and H. Jenkins. Barry: Back, E. Jones; three-quarter backs, J. Jones, J. Davis, G. Sims, and T. Hughes; half backs, T. Davis, and P. Cloake; forwards, W. E. Rees, Williams, J. Baker, W. Getthin, W. Piper, G. Richards, T. Deverall, and R. Phillips. Barry kicked off, and Stephens returned to touch. The home men at once began pressing, and their forwards dribbled down the field and nearly scored a try, but E. Jones pluckily saved for his side. The Barry men gradually drove their opponents back to the centre, where a few scrums were fought out. From one of these scrums Stephens got hold and passed to Taylor, who in turn passed to Glendinning, and the latter scored in the corner. The place kick was unsuccessful. Whitchurch restarted, and Jones returned to the centre for Barry, where some exchange kicking ensued between the backs. A scrum was formed in the centre, and Cloake got hold and passed to Davis, but the keen tackling of the Whitchurch men prevented them from scoring. D. Stephens got a pass from one of the forwards a few yards from the goal-line, and scored a try, which was not converted. The Barry men now began pressing towards the close of the game, and Rees eventually scored. The place kick, taken by Hughes, was a failure. Time was then called, with the score standing:—Whitchurch, two tries; Barry, nil.

AMMANFORD V. LLANELLY A.

These teams met at Ammanford. The home captain kicked off. The ball was well returned by

On 17th December 1894, The Western Mail's sport columnist shared on what was probably well known locally regarding our man Radley Thomas.

Following closely, Roberts, and Bowness.

I hear that Radley Thomas has accepted the captaincy of the Whitchurch Club. On Saturday the team paid a visit to Lydney, and were victorious by one try. The visit of the Whitchurchonians to Lydney was brought about through the instrumentality of Mr. W. Thomas, son of the managing director of the Melingriffith Company, who is a member of the team and is a forward not to be dispised, especially when good tackling is necessary.

On the whole, the competition paragraphs this week are distinctly livelier than those of a

It's interesting to note the wider link with the Melingriffith works.

With Christmas looming, Whitchurch had a good win at home to Grangetown with this report printed a day or two after the match, 24th December 1894, The South Wales Daily News

The game ended, after a stubborn contest, in a draw.

WHITCHURCH v GRANGETOWN.

These teams met at Whitchurch. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors, the game did not commence until four o'clock. The following were the teams:—
Whitchurch—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, Glendinning, Radley Thomas, Stephens, and Chisslett; half-backs, D. Owen, and D. Stephens; forwards, W. Stephens, T. Hole, G. Bennett, W. Sprudd, B. Hopkins, W. P. Thomas, T. John, and W. Oldfield.
Grangetown—Back, B. E. Mabbs; three-quarter backs, Oliver, D. Dwyer, J. Evans, and J. Rees; half-backs, A. McCarthy and F. Smith; forwards, T. McCarthy, W. Broad, Smith, Parry, Palmer, Thomas, J. Evans, and another.

McCarthy commenced operations for the visitors, and play settled down in the home 25, where several scrums were formed, and Whitchurch getting rather the best of it, worked into the Grangetown territory. Here Dwyer got possession, but did not go far before he was brought low by G. Stephens. J. Evans, by a long kick, sent the ball over, Mabbs touching down. Following the drop-out, Whitchurch again took play into the visitors' quarters, and for off-side play were awarded a free by which they gained considerable ground. The visitors by some good footwork got to the centre, where a number of scrums ensued, and the homesters heeling out gave their backs a chance. Owens passed to D. Stephens; the latter passed to Radley Thomas, who, after a dodgy run, transferred to Chisslett, who scored a well-deserved try. The place failed. Half-time was shortly afterwards called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH.....	0	1	1	
GRANGETOWN.....	0	0	0	

Whitchurch re-started, and play was again in the Grangetown territory, T. John running to within a few yards of the line before he was collared. Mabbs here got the ball, but an excellent kick sent the ball to half-way. A. McCarthy made off at top speed, and was nicely floored by Bennett. The homesters came off with a fine bit of passing. Stephens was not overhauled until when within a couple of yards of the line. Whitchurch had very hard lines in not scoring. Play was in the Grange quarters for fully 15 minutes. Eventually Rees had a pass and gained a lot of ground. Just before time Radley Thomas got possession, rounded his men in fine style, and scored behind the posts, G. Stephens kicking a fine goal.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH.....	1	1	1	
GRANGETOWN.....	0	0	0	

Don't put your feet up yet. What about this for a busy Christmas? Not much time for turkey and trimmings this year, 1sts and 2nds on duty...24th December 1894 The Evening Express

Williams; and R. Richards and W. Davies forwards.
 Whitchurch v. Penarth District.—To be played at Whitchurch on Christmas Day. Whitchurch: Back, F. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, D. R. Thomas, and D. Chisslett; half-backs, Edward Stephens and D. C. Stephens; forwards, V. Taylor (captain), G. Bennett, T. Hole, W. Stephens, B. Hopkins, W. Oldfield, W. Sprudd, and Tom John. The above players will represent the home team in their match with Lydbrook on Boxing morning; kick-off, both days, at 10.30 sharp.
 Whitchurch Seconds v. Carlton.—To be played at Whitchurch on Boxing morning.
 Whitchurch Seconds v. St. Michael's.—To be played at Whitchurch on Christmas Day.

How they managed to fit this in I don't know but there's no respite for these boys, a Boxing Day visit from Lydbrook, published in The Evening Express on 27th December 1894.

YESTERDAY'S MATCHES.

WHITCHURCH V. LYDBROOK.

The Lydbrook football team visited Whitchurch on Boxing Day to play the return match with the Whitchurchtonians. There was a good attendance of spectators. The game was an interesting one, but it soon became evident that the home players were smarter than their opponents. The visiting forwards, however, kept splendidly together, and during the first half had the best of matters. This cannot, however, be said of the backs, for they were fairly beaten by their opponents. During the second half of the game Whitchurch played one man short, George Bennett, one of their forwards, having been badly hurt. Notwithstanding this the home players continued to play an aggressive game and were continually making onslaughts on the opposing citadel. Howells and Stephens, at half-back, were never wanting, and gave their third line plenty to do. Radley Thomas and Glendinning played with much dash, and were a constant source of trouble to their vis-a-vis. The game resulted in a win for Whitchurch by two goals and two tries to nil. At six o'clock the teams dined together at the Fox and Hounds. The good things partaken of had been prepared by Mine Host Allen, and they were much appreciated. There were also present several local lovers of the game. After supper an adjournment was made to an adjoining room, where a very pleasant evening was spent. Mr. Wyndham Thomas presided. After a lengthy programme of songs and recitations had been gone through, the chairman delivered a neat speech. He dwelt upon the good feeling existing between the teams, and stated that, although the visitors had been defeated, yet they played a manly game. The Whitchurch players, he continued, had arranged to entertain the visitors at their hospitable board as a small return for the grand reception accorded the village boys during their visit to Lydbrook. Mr. Hubert Thomas (Lydbrook) responded. He said that the visit had been an enjoyable one, and that each member of the team was very pleased with the sportsmanlike conduct of the victors. A vote of thanks to the chairman, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," brought an interesting meeting to a close.

CARDIFF HORNETS V. CHELTENHAM.
At Cheltenham in dull weather. Cheltenham kicked

It didn't end there either, on 28th December 1894, The Evening Express published this team sheet for a game against Caldicot a few days later.....

Matthews, T. Salmon, F. James, E. Waite, J. Williams, and A. N. Other.

Whitchurch v. Caldicott (Chepstow).—To be played at Whitchurch; kick-off at three o'clock. Whitchurch team:—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, E. Stephens, and D. Chisslett; half-backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, V. Taylor (captain), T. Hole, W. Oldfield, T. John, B. Hopkins, W. Sprudd, Tom Davies, and W. Broad.

St. Mary's v. Cardiff Artillery.—To be played at the Sophia Gardens. St. Mary's team:—Back, C. Stevens; three-quarter backs, A. Sanders, J. Jenkins,

1895

One of the first games in the new year was a home game against Newport 2nds with the Whitchurch 2nds being away at Atlas Quins, 19th January 1895, The Evening Express.

at the Woodville Hotel at 2.45 sharp.
 Whitchurch v. Newport Second Fifteen.—To be played at Whitchurch. The home team will be:—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, D. Radley Thomas, and C. Seaman; half-backs, D. Owen and W. Stockden; forwards, V. Taylor (captain), W. Sprudd, W. Oldfield, B. Hopkins, W. Stephens, T. Jomn, J. Blake, and W. P. Thomas.
 Whitchurch Second Fifteen v. Atlas 'Quins.—To be played at Cardiff. The Whitchurch team will be:—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. Parry, (captain), T. Thomas, W. Pattinson, and R. Evans; half-backs, Ivor George and D. Llewellyn; forwards, E. Bale, C. Howells, Jess Llewellyn, W. Thomas, W. Salmon, T. Frost, T. Adams, and W. Brood.
 Central Stars v. Higher Grade.—To be played at Roath Park. The following will represent the Stars:

This report on 21st January 1895 from The Evening Express suggests it was a tight game with Newport just about edging things.

WHITCHURCH V. NEWPORT THIRD.
 Played at Whitchurch. The teams were:—Whitchurch: Back, Salmon; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, G. Stephens, D. Radley Thomas and C. Seaman; half-backs, D. Owen and W. Stockden; forwards, V. Taylor (captain), W. Sprudd, — Oldfield, B. Hopkins, W. Stephens, T. John, J. Blake, and W. P. Thomas. Newport Third: Back, E. King; three-quarter backs, Ivor Thomas (captain), W. Baldwin, T. Plaisted, and F. Price; half-backs, G. Wade and W. Jones; forwards, F. W. Davies, E. W. Evans, C. Morris, P. Berrill, W. Huxtable, J. Gervine, E. Williams, and C. Parfitt. Referee, Mr. J. Evans, Cardiff District Football Union.
 Newport kicked off, and George Stephens returning well, found touch in the centre. From here W. P. Thomas and Taylor came away with a fine dribble, and the latter, kicking too hard, forced the visitors to concede a minor. The remainder of the play during this half was fairly even, each side attacking in turn. A nice rush of the Newport forwards saw them have a narrow escape for scoring, but Whitchurch saved by conceding a minor. Half-time:—Whitchurch, one minor; Newport Third, one minor. Taylor re-started, and play settled down at half-way. Soon after the re-start Plaisted, one of the visiting three-quarters, having sustained an injury to his ankle, was compelled to retire. After an attack by the Whitchurch three-quarters, Davies got possession at a line out, and scored a neat try, which was not converted. Final score:—Newport, one try and two minors; Whitchurch, one minor.
 TIVERTON V. BRISTOL.

When the chips are down the last thing you need is the local press getting on your back, 'circle the wagons fellas', take the rough with the smooth, 2nd February 1895 The Evening Express

stationed at the Cardiff Barracks.
 3 The Whitchurch F.C., who have been going very badly lately, are confident that they will
 1 defeat Roath to-day.
 My Llanelly correspondent says:—"A

Now whether or not the 2nd Feb match against Roath was played or not is difficult to say, but, they did play against each other in early March.

On 1st March 1895 The Evening Express published the Whitchurch line up for the home match against Roath:

leaves Cardiff at 2.10 (Rhyimey station).

Whitchurch v. Roath.—To be played at Whitchurch. The home team will be:—Back, W. Salmon; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining (captain), G. Stephens, Thomas H. Thomas, and E. P. Edwards; half-backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, T. Hole, W. Stockden, B. Hopkins, W. Sprudd, Tom John, W. Stephens, J. Blake, and W. P. Thomas.

Ely Rangers v. Pontypridd Great Western.—To be played at Pontypridd. Rangers' team:—Back, W.

Although it didn't result in a win, 4th March 1895, The South Wales Daily News

of visitors, who had congregated to witness the match.

WHITCHURCH v ROATH.

For the first time this season these teams met at Whitchurch, an exciting game ending in a draw, a minor point only being scored by each side.

MAESTEG v 2ND TONDU 2ND.

Played at Tondy before a small attendance. A very evenly-contested game ended in a draw.

On the 8th March 1895 The Evening Express published the team sheets for the 2nd XV game against Monktonians at Roath Park.

C. Moore, A. Gann, and J. Turner.
Whitchurch Second v. Old Monktonians.—To be played at Roath Park; kick-off at 3.30. Whitchurch Second: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. Pattinson, R. Evans, T. Thomas, and W. Parry (captain); half-backs, J. George and W. Nicholls; forwards, W. Lewis, D. Davies, C. Howells, W. Thomas, T. Frost, W. Salmon, W. J. Broad, and T. Adams. Old Monktonians: Back, S. Jenkins; three-quarter backs, E. H. Gunn, W. Lace, A. Care, and W. Care; half-backs, R. Jenkins and A. Morgan; forwards, F. Box, A. I. Clark, F. Barter, J. Strachan, H. Bradford, F. Jones, H. Cude, and G. Jenkins.

Meanwhile, the 1sts were home to Cardiff Northern

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF NORTHERN.
To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch:—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, E. P. Edwards, D. Chislett, G. Stephens, and J. B. Glendining; half-backs, D. Owen and D. Stephens; forwards, W. Oldfield, W. Sprudd, Tom Hole, T. John, B. Hopkins, W. P. Thomas, G. Bennett, and W. V. Taylor (captain). Northern: Back, W. James; three-quarter backs, E. J. J. Spillane, J. Driscoll, C. Williams, and A. M. Ricketts; half-backs, F. P. Williams (captain) and E. L. C. Jones; forwards, M. Leary, M. Carthy, T. M'Carthy, D. Rogers, F. Owen, C. Harrison, D. Owen, and J. R. Childs.

CARDIFF RESERVES V. LLWYNYPIA.

Whitchurch were given no chance against Cardiff Northern game according to The Evening Express on 9th March 1895 and fair play, young Radley Thomas was probably younger than we might have expected.

The Neath Club have got home and home fixtures for next season with the blue and black brigade.

There will be a slaughter of the innocents at Whitchurch to-day. The Cardiff Northern are taking a very warm team up to play a League match with the village boys, and are very confident of putting up a great score.

Radley Thomas has had permission from his parents to play for Cardiff Reserves for the remainder of the season.

ST. ANDREW'S.....	3	4	0
CARDIFF BOROUGH.....	0	1	0

CARDIFF DISTRICT LEAGUE.
WHITCHURCH v CARDIFF NORTHERN.

The return match between these teams was played at Whitchurch before a good number of onlookers. Mr F. Strutt (Cardiff and District Union), was the referee. D. Goss commenced for the visitors, and the ball was well returned to the centre by J. C. Evans, and the home forwards, following up well, carried the ball well into the Northern territory, where Charlie Williams saved, and by a long kick sent the ball back into touch at mid-territory. From the line-out Glendenning, by a good kick, sent the ball to Charlie Williams. The latter made a mark, and gained much ground. Several scrums were now formed near the division line, and T. McCarthy got away with a fine dribble. G. Stephens saved beautifully. Whitchurch, through the instrumentality of Stephens, Taylor, and Bennett, took the ball near the visitors' line before they were stopped. The visitors, however, played up with much dash, and got away nicely to the home quarters. Spillane here had a pass, and threw to Driscoll, who was only brought down by Evans when within about two or three yards of the line. Whitchurch played up a little better, and worked back to the half-way flag, where scrums ensued, and Savage got the ball away nicely to Spillane, who gave up to Driscoll, and the latter ran well into the home 25 before he was overhauled.

HALF-TIME SCORE:		G.	T.	M.
NORTHERN.....	0	0	1	
WHITCHURCH.....	0	0	1	

Bennett restarted for Whitchurch. Williams retired.

Not quite the 'slaughter' the Express had predicted though, 11th March 1895 The South Wales Daily News

S. MONDAY, MARCH

McCarthy and Harrison next came off with a fine dribble, and gained considerable ground. Whitchurch now by a smart bit of play got into the Northern quarters, but the Northern, who were superior to their opponents, drove play back to the home 25, where play remained for some time. Eventually Savage got the ball away to Spillane. The latter in the nick of time passed to Driscoll, who scored a well-deserved try. Shortly after the kick out Whitchurch had to concede a minor. Just after the kick out the visitors got back to the home quarters, where play was for about ten minutes. Owens, for the visitors, broke through a scrum and scored.

FINAL SCORE:		G.	T.	M.
CARDIFF NORTHERN.....	1	1	2	
WHITCHURCH.....	0	0	1	

BARRY DISTRICT v LLANDAFF.

Played on very muddy ground at Barry before a

On 22nd March 1895 The Evening Express showed the team selection for an away game at Barry.

forwards, Morris, B. James, D. Thomas, D. Davies, W. J. Thomas, T. Jones, P. J. Davies, and T. Lewis. Referee: Mr. F. E. Nicholls, Cardiff.

WHITCHURCH V. BARRY.

To be played at Barry. The Whitchurch team will be: Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning (captain), G. Stephens, E. P. Edwards, and W. Shepherd; half backs, W. Edney and J. Chard; forwards, W. P. Thomas, W. Oldfield, W. Sprudd, T. John, J. Blake, A. Moss, W. Broad, and W. Salmon.

EBBW VALE V. PONTYMYSTER.

At Ebbw Vale.—Ebbw Vale team: Back, H. T.

The 2nds team for a home game against Avondale was published in The Evening Express on 23rd March 1895

J. H. James.

Whitchurch Second Fifteen v. Avondale.—At Whitchurch. The home team will be: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. H. Parry (captain), T. Thomas, J. Edney, and W. Pattinson; half backs, Ivor George and D. Stephens; forwards, T. Adams, J. Llewellyn, R. Evans, W. Thomas, T. Frost, C. Howells, E. Bate, and another.

The result of the away game at Barry was a well earned win for Whitchurch reported in The Western Mail on 25th March 1895

BARRY V. WHITCHURCH.

Played at the Holton Field, Barry Docks, the teams being fully represented. Barry kept the visitors on the defensive the whole of the first half. From a scrum the home three-quarters, after a fine bout of passing, got over with a try for Barry, no goal resulting. During the second half play was more even, and Glendinning got possession near the half-way, and, evading the whole of his opponents, scored a try for Whitchurch, which Stevens converted. The home custodian was also forced to touch down three times in defence. Final score:—Whitchurch, one goal and three minors; Barry, one try.

GRANGE STAR V. ROATH.

Played at the Sophia Gardens. Final score:---

Another tight game, this time home to Canton in a Cardiff and District league game. This account was published in The Evening Express on 30th March 1895

CANTON V. WHITCHURCH.

This match, in the Cardiff and District League, was played at Whitchurch, before a fairly large crowd of spectators. Whitchurch kicked off with the sun in their eyes, and Hussey returned well, the ball going into touch at half-way. The Canton forwards then got the ball and made a rush up the field, but Evans stopped further danger by kicking down the field. Tom Jones got the ball and made a good run up the field but was grassed by Evans. The visitors then got a free, and Hussey made a good attempt at goal, but only a minor resulted. On the kick-out, Whitchurch played up better and forced play into their opponents' territory, where Jack Keepings obtained the ball and made a grand run up the field, but was pushed into touch. Canton here had another free kick, but nothing came of it, and Evans touched down a second time. The visitors still pressed and forced another minor. Whitchurch were then awarded a free, but made nothing of it, and Canton soon had the ball back again, where Evans touched down a fourth time. The homesters then warmed up and made a hot attack on the visitors' line and Thomas nearly scored, but was brought down by Hussey. Half-time score:—Canton, four minors; Whitchurch, nil. Canton re-started, and Evans returned well to the centre, where Tom Jones got the ball and ran down the field and passed to Jack Keepings, but he could make no progress and scrummaging occurred at half-way. The forwards were very evenly matched. Seaborne then got the ball from a scrum and passed in the nick of time to Tom Jones, who sent the ball to J. Williams, and he made a dashing run down the field and scored, but Hussey failed to convert.

Canton—2 tries.
Whitchurch—1 try.

CLOUCESTER V. MIDDLESEX WANDERERS.
The Metropolitan team... its first visit to

We'll give this full coverage only because of the extent of it. It was published in The Barry Dock News on 29th March 1895 an away game for Whitchurch against Barry played at Holton Field, Barry Docks.

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FOOTBALL

BARRY v. WHITCHURCH.

The above teams met at the Holton Field, Barry Docks, on Saturday afternoon last in fine football weather. Both sides were fully represented, as follows:—Barry;—Back—E Jones; three-quarter back—J Jones, T Davies, J Welsh, and A Jenkins; half-back—P Cloke and J Davies; forward—W E Rees (captain), W Piper, T Hughes, J Baker, W Driscoll, A Morton, J Dooley, and Brown. Whitchurch:—Back—J C Evans; three-quarter back—J Glendenning, E P Edwards, G Stevens, and W Chaplin; half-back—W Edney and J Chard; forward—W P Thomas, A Hedges, A Moss, W Sprudd, J Blake, W Oldfield, and T John. Referee, Mr J. E. Kingscott. Rees kicked off for Barry, and the forwards followed up well, and brought the Whitchurch custodian to earth close on the line. Several hard scrimmages were fought, and the visitors had all they could do from keeping the homesters from scoring, and the home team would, no doubt, have scored at this point if the forwards had heeled out a little more. Whitchurch gradually forced operations to neutral ground. The game became more open, and the home quartette made some fine bursts, but the defence of the visitors was good. The play was brought back to the Whitchurch three-quarter line, and from a scrum the halves got possession, and after a fine bout of passing between the Barry three-quarters, A Jenkins got over with a corner try, the kick for goal proving a failure. After the kick out Barry returned quickly, and nearly scored again. Play remained on the visitors' line for a considerable time, scrum after scrum being formed, and eventually a kick relieved the visitors, and the game was removed to the three-quarter line. Barry were here allowed a free kick, but no ground was gained, and Jenkins, for Barry, getting possession made a good rush, and was only brought down a few yards off the line. Barry continued to press,

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made a good rush, and was only brought down a few yards off the line. Barry continued to press, and free kicks were allowed on both sides. Glendenning put in a fine run for Whitchurch, being collared near half-way by Jenkins, and Barry soon rushed the ball back. At half-time the score stood Barry, one try; Whitchurch, nil. After the change of ends, the visiting halves got the ball out a few times, but the three-quarters were slow to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them. Some hard play was done by both teams the Whitchurch three-quarters now getting the oval oftener, but the Barry men tackled in fine style. Play remained in the centre for a while, and suddenly Glendenning made a burst, evading all his opponents, and got over with a try right behind the posts for Whitchurch, which was goaled by Stevens. After the kick out Cloke made his mark near half-way, and the return kick sent the ball over the home line, and Jones had to touch down. Immediately afterwards Edwards, for the visitors, put in a good kick for goal, but the ball missed the posts. Whitchurch were allowed two free kicks in quick succession, and the home back again had to touch down in defence. The Barry forwards now seemed to lose all dash, and but for the three-quarters, who played well all through, the score would have been much more. The game became rather uninteresting, and, subsequently, a long kick from Glendenning resulted in another minor. At the call of time Whitchurch were victorious by one goal, three minors, to Barry's one try. In the

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kick from Glendenning resulted in another minor. At the call of time Whitchurch were victorious by one goal, three minors, to Barry's one try. In the first half Barry played as good a game as has been seen on the Holton Field. The visitors were kept penned in their quarters throughout the first half, the ball not been seen once further than the half-way line. Rees worked hard in the forwards, and the home pack were a much heavier lot than the visitors, but should practice heeling out a little more. The three-quarters played well, and the halves fairly matched their opponents. In the second half the home team played with the same determination for a time as in the initial part of the game, but Glendenning's try fairly daunted them, and although he had had a good start, Jack Jones followed him up well, and dropped on him just as he touched down, and there must have been a misunderstanding between the players and referee.

PENARTH v. BATH.

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Prompt action here thankfully played a part in the quick recovery of the Canton team captain after suffering an on field episode, The South Wales Daily News 1st April 1895.

(Glasgow Rangers), and Lamont (Queen's Park), forwards.

ACCIDENT TO A PLAYER.

In the match between Whitchurch and Canton at Whitchurch on Saturday, an unfortunate accident occurred. While the play was proceeding Mr Charles Harding, captain of the Canton team, dropped in a fit in the thick of a scrum, and was taken off the field, it being supposed that he also received some accidental injury. He was speedily removed to Cardiff Infirmary, where he was examined by Dr. Cresswell. The doctor found, however, that the injuries and Mr Harding's condition were not such as to necessitate the patient being detained, and he was allowed to go home.

ATHLETIC GROUNDS, NEWPORT.—Football:
Cardiff v. Newport, Saturday, March 30th, kick-off 5.30. Admission—Enclosure, 1s; Field, 6d. A limited

Here we have another update on Whitchurch 2nds, the team selection for a home game against Llandaff 2nds, 6th April 1895 The Evening Express.

Whitchurch Second Fifteen v. Llandaff Second Fifteen.—To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch team:—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. H. Parry (captain), J. Edney, T. Thomas, and P. Evans; half backs, Ivor George and D. Owen; forwards, T. Adams, D. Davies, W. Thomas, J. Llewellyn, S. Evans, C. Howells, Dai Seaman, and A. Hedges.

St. Peter's v. Caledonians.—To be played at the Roath Park. St. Peter's team:—Back, R. Rees;

The good thing about this is that by comparing all the team sheets, we can view the entire 'squad' of players that represented the club during that period of the club's development.

Whitchurch v. Mr. T. A. Jones's Team (Canton).—To be played at Whitchurch on Good Friday. The homesters will be:—Back, Fred Matthews; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining, G. Stephens, J. Thomas, and W. Shapland or J. C. Evans; half backs, W. Edney and J. Chard; forwards, V. Taylor (captain), W. Oldfield, W. Sprudd, A. Wain, B. Hopkins, T. Hale, W. Broad, and W. Salmon.

Whitchurch Second Fifteen v. Canton Wanderers.—At Whitchurch on Good Friday. The home team will be:—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. H. Parry, J. Edney, A. Thomas, and P. Evans; half backs, Ivor George and D. Owen; forwards, T. Adams, E. Bale, C. Howells, W. Thomas, J. Llewellyn, D. Davies, S. Evans, and T. Frost.

Cethys v. T.V.R. and R.R. Trainmen.—This match will be played at the Harlequins' Ground tomorrow (Good Friday). Kick-off at 10.45 a.m.

The season's wasn't over either, Easter fixtures were next, Whitchurch at home to a Mr. T. A. Jones (Canton) team and the 2nds away at Canton Wanderers. 13th April 1895, The Evening Express.

at 2.30 sharp.

Whitchurch v. Penarth Victoria F. C.—To be played at Whitchurch; kick-off at 3.30 o'clock. The home team will be: Back, D. T. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. H. Parry (captain), J. Edney, F. Matthews, and R. Evans; half backs, Ivor George and Pete Chard; forwards, C. Howells, S. Evans, W. Sprudd, W. Thomas, D. Davies, W. Solmoni, T. Adams, and W. Y. Broad.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE

With the next match being a home fixture against Penarth Victoria, 19th April 1895, The Evening Express.

As if to conclude the season, what seems to have been the final game, was this little gem that provides us with a full list of players that represented the club back then. It was a Whitchurch 1st XV against Whitchurch 2nd XV, stars one and all. 26th April 1895 The Evening Express

Owen, and D. Owen.

WHITCHURCH FIRST V. WHITCHURCH SECOND.
To be played at Whitchurch.—Teams:—First: Back, Fred Matthews; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glending, G. Stephens, D. W. Thomas, and W. F. Shapiand; half backs, W. Edney and J. Chard; forwards (to be selected from), V. Taylor (captain), G. Bennett, J. Blake, T. Hole, W. Oldfield, A. Moss, B. Hopkins, W. Sprudd, and W. Stephens. Second: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. J. Parry (captain), J. Thomas, Joe Edney, and R. T. Evans; half backs, Ivor George and D. Llewellyn; forwards, W. Broad, T. Adams, S. Evans, D. Salmon, W. Thomas, D. Davies, T. John, and S. O. Else.

Old Monktonians v. Old Llandoverians.—Old Monktonians team:—Back, Coppock; three-quarter backs, Isaac Care, Elliott, and Kistell; half backs, Morgan

On 4th July 1895 The Western Mail published a brief account of the club's annual meeting held at the Fox and Hounds, naming the appointed officers of the club with Island Cottage remaining as the secretarial address.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.

A meeting of the Whitchurch Football Club was held at the Fox and Hounds Hotel on Tuesday evening, Mr. T. Evans presiding. The following officers were elected for the forthcoming season:—Captain First Fifteen, Mr. D. R. Thomas; vice-captain, Mr. G. Bennett; Captain Second Fifteen, Mr. D. Rowlands; vice-chairman, Mr. Thos. H. Thomas; committee, Messrs. T. Evans, J. Davies, W. Chapland, J. D. Hopkins, E. Hopkins, V. Taylor, and D. Owen. The duties of secretary were left in the hands of Mr. J. C. Evans, Island Cottage, Whitchurch.

THE VALUE OF KNO'S FRUIT SALT cannot

One of the first games of the 1895/96 season would have been this one away at Machen. 13th September 1895 The Evening Express.

Whitchurch v. Machen.—To be played at Machen. Whitchurch team:—Back, A. Dobson; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glending, Joe Edney, D. M. Thomas (captain), and G. Stephens; half-backs, W. Edney and Ivor George; forwards, G. Bennett, T. Dobson, J. Blake, W. Sprudd, J. Casey, E. Parsons, T. Richards, and W. Broad. Break leaves Church corner at 2.30, sharp.

CARDIFF FOOTBALL CLUB.
Season Tickets will be Sold at the Cardiff Arms Park on Friday, Saturday and Monday, at the Usual Time.—Charles S. Arthur, Secretary. e4637

A game that Whitchurch won, 3 tries and 1 minor to nil “in the presence of a fair number of spectators”.

But for Whitchurch supporters an early season treat was yet to come, on 18th September 1895 The South Wales Daily News published this little titbit....

Cardiff open their regular season on Saturday next at the Arms Park, when they have Bristol as visitors. On Wednesday they play a practice match against Whitchurch.

The Association game seems to be dying out in

The newspaper then publishing the team selections for the game (right)

FOOTBALL.

CARDIFF v. WHITCHURCH.

With the idea of giving the Cardiff players an opportunity of playing together before the fixture list is entered upon, the Cardiff Committee have arranged a match with Whitchurch at the Park to-day (Wednesday), kick-off at 5 p.m.

Teams:—*Cardiff*—Back, Alun Morgan; three-quarter backs, A. M. Ricketts, G. Nicholls, J. Ellis, and Norman Biggs; half-backs, R. B. Sweet-Escott and Selwyn Biggs; forwards, F. Mills, Gus Lewis, W. J. Elsey, E. Emery, Ramsey, W. Phillips, W. Davies (Barry), and T. Dobson. Reserves—S. Cravos and H. Cornish.

Whitchurch—Back, D. G. Stephens; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining, J. Edney, T. Thomas, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, T. Howells and W. Edney; forwards, G. Bennett, E. Padson, T. Richards, W. Sprudd, J. Blake, J. Casey, W. Broad, W. Stockden, J. Bevan, and S. Evans.

Here's what was published, from a few reports, with Whitchurch being allowed to play 18 players:

19th September 1895. The Evening Express.
(Right)

19th September 1895. The South Wales Echo
(Below)

FOOTBALL.

CARDIFF v WHITCHURCH XVIII.

With the idea of giving the Cardiff players an opportunity of playing together before the fixture list is entered upon, the Cardiff Committee arranged a match with Whitchurch at the Park on Wednesday, the kick-off being at 5 p.m.

Teams:—*Cardiff*—Back, Alun Morgan; three-quarter backs, P. B. House, G. Nicholls, T. J. Thomas, and Norman Biggs; half-backs, R. B. Sweet-Escott and Selwyn Biggs; forwards, F. Mills, Gus Lewis, W. J. Elsey, E. Emery, Ramsey, W. Phillips, W. Davies (Barry), and S. Cravos. *Whitchurch*—Back, V. Taylor; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, J. Edney, T. Thomas, W. Shapland, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, T. Howells and W. Edney; forwards, G. Bennett, E. Padson, T. Richards, W. Sprudd, J. Blake, J. Casey, W. Broad, W. Stockden, J. Bevan, and S. Evans.

There was a fair attendance when play was started from the Town end by Whitchurch. After a momentary rush the home team settled down, and a couple of tries were soon notched, Frank Mills and P. B. House breaking through the defence, Norman Biggs converting one. Selwyn Biggs soon afterwards added a minor from a mark. The contest being so unequal the Cardiffians slackened down perceptibly, with the result that the visitors caught them napping, and after scrambling play Glendinning then gained a try for them. Nothing further had been scored up to half-time.

Interest had evaporated in the game as a contest long before the interval, partly by reason of the one-sided character of the play, despite the interference from the unusual number of backs played by Whitchurch, but mainly on account of the absence of the left wing Elliot and the recruit Ricketts failing to turn out through accidental causes. Their places were taken by T. J. Thomas, who played the best game among the backs, and young House, who created a good impression, taking his passes beautifully, defending pluckily and sprinting smartly, the only disadvantage he laboured under being his lack of size and weight. Further points were scored for Cardiff by R. B. Sweet-Escott, who dropped a fine goal from a mark, and Mills and Thomas who added tries. The best man on the visiting side was Radley Thomas, whose defence was particularly good. It was a pity he did not play on the wing.

FINAL SCORE.		G. T. M.
CARDIFF.....		*3 3 1
WHITCHURCH		0 1 0

*One from a mark.

FOOTBALL,

CARDIFF V. EIGHTEEN OF WHITCHURCH.

This match, being a kind of return fixture to the game played at Whitchurch at the commencement of last season, took place at the Cardiff Arms Park on Wednesday, and proved good practice for the Cardiff team for the serious work of the season. The teams were composed as follows:—*Cardiff*: Back, Alun Morgan; three-quarter backs, P. B. House, G. Nicholls, T. J. Thomas, and N. Biggs; half-backs, R. B. Sweet-Escott (captain) and S. Biggs; forwards, F. Mills, Gus Lewis, W. J. Elsey, E. Emery, Ramsey, W. Phillips, W. Davies (Barry), and S. Cravos. *Whitchurch*: Back, V. Taylor; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, W. Shapland, J. Edney, J. Thomas, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, T. Howells and W. Edney; forwards, G. Bennett, J. Blake, J. Casey, E. Parsons, W. Broad, T. Richards, W. Stockden, W. Sprudd, J. Bevan, and S. Evans. The final score was:—*Cardiff*, three goals (one dropped), one try, and one minor; *Whitchurch*, one try and one minor.

THE BADGER-LLOYD QUESTION AT LLANELLY.

Not a great day for us but the sports columnist in The Western Mail (below) was a bit more praiseworthy on 20th September 1895, mainly reporting on the Cardiff club.

Cambridge. Radley Thomas played a very good game for Whitchurch on Wednesday, being in fact, the mainstay of the visiting backs, and it is not too much to say that he gave Gwynn Nicholls, opposite whom he was playing, a regular sitting on. Radley, however, I am afraid, is not fast enough for a wing three-quarter in a first-class team as the game is played at the present time.

To return to Wednesday's game, Cardiff undoubtedly had much the best of the play all through. The Whitchurchtonians got into the Cardiff half on but few occasions, although they made good use of one of the said occasions, viz., when Glendinning ran over with his try. This was the result of some really smart work on the part of the Whitchurch three-quarters, and they fully deserved the fruit it bore. The back play of the Cardiffians was not altogether what could be desired, for they were often at fault, but, still, we may soon expect to see them back in their old form. The two halves were as smart as ever, and when the three-quarter line gets settled it will only require two or at least three matches to put the whole machinery into proper working order.

WELSH ATHLETE.

With no time to rest the boys are back in it again, the next game being an away fixture against Ponty and the 2nds down to play Canton 2nds at home. 20th September 1895
The Evening Express.

later than three o'clock.
Whitchurch v. Pontypridd.--To be played at Pontypridd. Whitchurch team:--Back, W. Stockden; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, D. M. Thomas (captain), Thomas Thomas, and W. Shapland; half-backs, W. Edney and T. Seeley; forwards, G. Bennett, J. Blake, J. Casey, T. Richards, E. Parsons, W. Nicholas, V. Taylor, and Tom John.
Whitchurch Second Fifteen v. Canton Second Fifteen.--To be played at Whitchurch. Kick off at 3.30 sharp. The home team will be:--Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, W. Parry, D. Llewelyn, Pete Chard, and D. R. Evans; half-backs, Ivor George and C. Wade; forwards, W. Sprudd, W. Broad, T. Adams, W. Salmon, D. Davies, A. Moss, S. Evans, and W. Evans.
Cardiff Artillery v. Canton Wanderers.--Artillery team:--Back, J. Jones; three-quarter backs, S. Jen-

Here's the report on the Ponty game, 21st September 1895, The Evening Express

Aberavon, two tries and two minors.
Cwmbran, two minors.
PONTYPRIDD V. WHITCHURCH.
This match was played on the Taff Vale Park, Pontypridd. Both teams were well represented. The referee was Mr. Ivor Johns, Newport. Whitchurch kicked off, and the homesters at once tooy play to the visitors' 25. Whitchurch, by a smart dribble, took the leather to the homesters territory. Ernest George and Wat Davnes, in a grand dribble, brought play to the centre. There Chislett, the Pontypridd wing, made a magnificent run, but Don McGregor failed to take his pass, and accordingly a certain try was lost. Radley Thomas endeavoured to get away, tackling. Scrum after scrum was fought out, but to no purpose, the only noticeable feature being a grand dribble headed by E. George. A free kick was awarded the visitors, and Radley Thomas found touch for the homesters 25 Half-time score:-- Pontypridd---One minor.
Whitchurch---Nil.
Final score:--
Pontypridd, 3 minors.
Whitchurch, one minor.

In between these matches, on 23rd September 1895 was this result, Whitchurch 'A' losing at home to Canton 'A' – Canton 1 goal and 3 tries (one try disputed); Whitchurch, 1 try.

But it was Radley Thomas who caught the eye of The Evening Express in the Ponty match, a game that evidently was classed as having been a draw. 23rd September 1895.

and so the game ended in a fairly even draw.
Whitchurch, with Radley Thomas at their head, contested with Pontypridd on Saturday, and succeeded in bringing the game to a draw. Radley Thomas played a good game, his defensive powers being very strong. He marked Morgan, the home skipper, whom he had to bring down repeatedly. Morgan is but a youngster, and plays a splendid aggressive and defensive game. In the front rank the Whitchurch men were beaten at all points. The home forwards succeeded in heeling the leather cut every time, and the consequence was that the home quartette were kept continually on the move. Ernest George and Wat Davies, with Wilkins, were a mountain of strength to their team, and oftentimes they elicited applause from the crowd when dribbling the ball down to the visitors' citadel. J. McGregor at half and Llewelyn Morgan at full back also need mention for their splendid play.

September was a busy time and this extract (below) was from The South Wales Echo on 23rd September 1895 in an article on the general meeting of the 'Welsh Rugby Union'. Within that was the usual 'selection of officers'; 'accounts' and various other agenda items, but this caught the eye for 'Clubs Admitted' (to the WRU)

AS THE RESULT OF A DIVISION, IN WHICH THE NAME OF Mr D. J. Price, Neath, was rejected.

CLUBS ADMITTED.

The following 11 clubs were admitted as members of the Union without discussion:—Blaina, Maesteg, Treherbert, Risca, Barry, Cwmbran, Pontymoule, Pontymister, Llandilo, Gorseinon, and Whitchurch.

Mr H. M. INGLEDEW stated that the Referees' ...

... game, but lacked the freshness so evident in the Valians.

Whitchurch were badly beaten by Llwynypia, the latter scoring nineteen points to five. The Llwynypia team have opened their season well, having scored already for two matches 41 points to eight. On Saturday they were without the services of their two centre three-quarters, the old international, Rosser Evans, and Ben Phillips filling up the gaps. Ben Phillips, who usually plays forward, is a most valuable man, being able to fill any vacancy—a sort of Boucher. T. Williams, the top scorer last year, secured his third try this season.

In Saturday's match Llwynypia had a big lead in the forwards, Hellings, the county man, showing up prominently. Yestin Thomas, the half, was at times brilliant, and made his openings in a most tricky manner. Whitchurch only really had one bout of passing, which Radley Thomas initiated, but Mills when making for the line was tackled grandly by Hadridge. This and the try made by Stockton were the only times they got dangerous.

Despite things being early season it seems that things with Whitchurch were not quite what they should have been, player movement being the main cause, the better players perhaps being attracted elsewhere if this (below) is anything to go by, 27th September 1895 The Evening Express

Here's another interesting one (below) early in the season, Whitchurch scheduled to play away Clayton, a Swansea team, leaving on the 1312hrs train from Cardiff, with the A team (2nds?) home to Cardiff Crusaders, 11th October 1895 The Evening Express.

Llwynypia play Whitchurch on Saturday at the Recreation Grounds, and a good game may be anticipated.

In endeavouring to arrive at some kind of an accurate result concerning the issue of events in this match it is necessary, in the first place, to know something of the personnel of the Whitchurch team.

Time was when the Whitchurch team was a hard nut to crack, but during late years great changes have taken place.

Llandaff and Whitchurch combined have sent forth to the football world men of power and skill, and men who have added lustre to the name of their county.

Jack Elliott, the smart Cardiff centre, is an old Llandaff boy, and he has proved himself to be one of the best centres in Wales.

Radley, who subsequently migrated to ...

Pugh, F. Richards, D. Phillips, and W. George.

WHITCHURCH V. CLAYTON.

To be played at Swansea. Whitchurch team: Back, George Stephens; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, D. M. Thomas (captain), Charles Mills, and George Mills; half-backs, T. Howell, and W. Edney; forwards, J. Flake, J. Casey, T. Richards, T. Dobson, George Dobson, W. Stockden, W. Nicholls, W. Broad, and T. Richards. Train leaves G.W.R. Station at 1.12 p.m.

Whitchurch A. v. Cardiff Crusaders... To be played at Whitchurch. The home team will be: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, R. Evans, A. Thomas, T. Thomas, and W. Parry; half-backs, J. D. Hopkins and J. George; forwards, W. Sprudd, W. Salmon, W. Evans, H. B. Wade, P. Lewis, S. Evans, W. Thomas, and C. Samuel.

Remilly v. Cardiff Hornets... Hornet's team: Back,

The Llwynypia game didn't go well and doubts on the Whitchurch team proven, this account (top right) from The Western Mail on 30th September 1895 favoured the Llwynypia club with little to say about Whitchurch

WHITCHURCH V. ROATH.

To be played at the Sophia Gardens. Whitchurch team: Back, Alf. Dobson; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendinning, George Mills, C. Mills, and D. M. Thomas (captain); half-backs, W. Edney and W. Stockden; forwards, J. Blake, T. Richards, N. Nicholls, W. Broad, W. Sprudd, V. Taylor, W. Oldfield, and W. Salmon.

Here's a write up that gives credit to both sides, 21st October 1895 from The South Wales Daily News, it was a Cardiff and District Cup game, at Sophia Gardens, a tough game with a number of stoppages, spoilt by crowd encroachment apparently with Roath just about getting the win. "The defeat of Whitchurch came as a surprise to many who did not know what a smart lot the Roath lads are. Roath it will be remembered won the junior cup last year and if they display such from in all their League matches as they did on Saturday they are certain to win the senior cup this season" – The Evening Express

Meanwhile, on the same day, the newspaper provided this score line for 'Whitchurch Reserves'

The Roath game didn't sit well with some people with one local man feeling the need to write, anonymously, in to The Evening Express having his letter published for all to see on 26th October 1895

(Whether football or rugby, that feeling of having spectators 'interfere' with play is not a great one).

...deserving mention in the Merthyr team.

ROATH v WHITCHURCH.

This contest, in connection with the District League Cup, took place on the Sophia Gardens Field. Both teams, although suffering from one or two absentees, were nevertheless well represented, and a good game was witnessed. In the first half honours were pretty evenly divided, T. Brady gaining a try for Roath, which was converted, while Glendining scored a try for Whitchurch. In the second half Roath had slightly the best of the play throughout, but no material point was scored until within two minutes of the call of time, when, in semi-darkness, T. Powell gained a try, which, with a well-directed aim, he converted :-

FINAL SCORE :		
	G.	T. M.
ROATH	2	0 2
WHITCHURCH	0	1 0

REMARKS.

It is to be regretted that the contests between the district teams for positions to play in the finals for the District League Cup are not played under more advantageous conditions. The crowding of the spectators on the ground nullify a great many opportunities for scoring, thus enabling the players to become aware of the actual position of the touch line. Great interest was evidenced by the partisans of each team, and the game was contested with perhaps an excess of vigour. In the contest under notice there were no fewer than five stoppages owing to one player or another receiving slight injuries due from accidental causes. For Whitchurch Glendining and Radley Thomas played an excellent game at three-quarter, while for Roath W. H. Williams and G. Davies were most conspicuous, although their confreres T. Powell and T. Brady were the fortunate scorers. P. Brady was the best half on the field, while there was nothing to choose between the custodians on either side.

Portyninster, the Cardiff men being beaten by a penalty goal to nil. The goal was kicked by Harris in the first half.

WHITCHURCH RESERVES v. CARDIFF VILLA.— Played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch were left the winners by 2 goal 1 try to nil.

CATHAYS INSTITUTE 2ND v. ST. PETERS STARS.— Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a

Company, W. D. Royal Artillery.

"Dear 'Welsh Athlete,'—It is not often such 'small fry' as the Whitchurch Football Club is given a word of advice or criticism in your column, and, therefore, I, with many others, was pleased to find that in Monday's issue of the 'Evening Express' you were magnanimous enough to devote twenty lines to a comment on the display made by the 'Village Boys' at the Sophia Gardens on Saturday. It is not my intention to detract from the victory gained by Roath; but I would like to say that the Sophia Gardens field is not a proper place on which to play football, and it would be extremely advisable for the gentlemen connected with the League to at once take the matter into their consideration. Why, what team can play when the spectators crowd over the touch-line? Is it possible for a player—whoever he may be—to do justice to himself under such circumstances? If Saturday's match was fought out on a properly defined ground, and that ground protected, who knows but what the Whitchurch boys would give a better display than they were able to do on a ground which is totally unfit, under present conditions, to satisfactorily play football.—I am, &c., FOOTBALL."

On 25th October 1895 The Evening Express published the team selections for the Whitchurch home match against Cardiff Northern.

CARDIFF NORTHERN V. WHITCHURCH.
 To be played at Whitchurch. Kick-off at 3.30.
 Whitchurch team: Back, Alf Dobson; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining, D. W. Thomas, Chas. Mills, and S. Body; half backs, W. Edney and Tom Howells; forwards, J. Blake, T. Richards, W. Nicholls, V. Taylor, W. Broad, W. Oldfield, A. Moss, and W. Salmon. Northern: Back, H. Young; three-quarter backs, J. Davies, C. Williams, T. Macpherson, and D. T. Russell; half-backs, T. Savage and D. Franks; forwards, D. R. Goss (captain), G. Woodman, W. James, F. P. Williams, M. Leary, F. Owen, C. Harrison, W. Ford, W. Perkins, and T. Carthy.

The match report was published in The South Wales Daily News on 28th October 1895 resulting in another tight game and a win for Whitchurch.

ever it was a good game, and well worthy of the reputation of the two teams.

WHITCHURCH v CARDIFF NORTHERN.
 Played at Whitchurch, before a good number of on-lookers. Teams:—Whitchurch—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, P. Body, T. Thomas, Radley Thomas, and J. B. Glendining; half-backs, T. Howells and W. Edney; forwards, E. Parsons, E. Boyer, W. Nicholls, T. Richards, W. Broad, W. Oldfield, and Stockden. Northern—Back, H. Young; three-quarter backs, W. Flynn, C. Williams, D. T. Russell, and Macpherson; half-backs, O. Davies and Franks; forwards, D. R. Goss, Thomas Brooks, Williams, Woods, M. Leary, Harrison, and another.

W. Stockden kicked off for the home team, and the ball was well returned. A scrummage followed in mid-territory, and for infringement Whitchurch were given a free, and the ball being sent over the visitors' line Young touched down. Immediately after the kick-out the visiting forwards got away with a fine dribble to the home 25, where their onward career was stopped nicely by T. Thomas. Here from a scrum the visitors got rather the best of matters. D. Russell getting hold ran well and passed to T. James, who looked a certain scorer, and was only brought down by Radley when within about a yard off the line. Russell picked up nicely and ran behind; the place failed. Resuming, the play was in the Whitchurch ground, where a few tight scrums were formed. Williams was given a pass, and scored after a dodgy run. After the kick-out the visitors got into the Whitchurch quarters, and Franks, who played a grand game, nearly got over. Whitchurch retaliated strongly and kept the visitors in their 25 for a few minutes. Russell was now prominent with a good run to the home 25 before being stopped. James now nearly dropped a goal, the ball going a trifle wide. Whitchurch had to concede a minor. Following the kick-out Glendining and T. Thomas were chiefly instrumental in taking the ball to the Northern 25. Here, from a scrum, Radley Thomas got possession, and in the nick of time passed nicely to Glendining, who went away at top speed and scored. Place abortive.

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
NORTHERN	.....	0	2	2
WHITCHURCH	.....	0	1	0

Harding restarted for the visitors, and J. C. Evans replied. Subsequently play was in the home territory. Franks got away nicely, but was stopped well by Glendining. The visitors sent the ball over, and Whitchurch had to concede a minor. Shortly after resuming Radley Thomas picked up in the Whitchurch 25 and made a grand run up the field, and was not stopped until within dangerous proximity of the Northern's line. Here, from a line-out, Howells passed to Radley, who passed low to T. Thomas, and the latter, dodging a few opponents, without hesitation dropped a marvelous goal amidst great excitement. Whitchurch were eventually left the winners after a good game.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH	.....	*1	1	2
CARDIFF NORTHERN	.....	0	2	5

* Dropped.

On 1st November 1895 The Evening Express published the team sheet for the Whitchurch team playing at home against Maesteg and also the Whitchurch 2nd XV match vs Romilly at Cardiff.

1.20 p.m.
 Whitchurch v. Maesteg.—To be played at Whitchurch. The home team will be:—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, R. Nicholas, Thomas Thomas, D. M. Thomas, and J. B. Glendining; half-backs, T. Howells, and W. Edney; forwards, T. Richards, W. Stockden, A. Moss, W. Nicholls, E. Boyer, W. Oldfield, W. Broad, and W. Salmon.
 Whitchurch Second Fifteen v. Romilly.—To be played at Cardiff. Whitchurch Second team:—Back, D. Rowlands (captain), three-quarter backs, W. Parry, A. Thomas, T. John, and R. Evans; half-backs, J. George and H. B. Wade; forwards, T. Adams, W. Sprudd, T. Maddox, W. Thomas, S. Fitzgerald, P. Lewis, W. Evans, and S. Evans. The Whitchurch team meet at Romilly Hotel, Romilly-crescent.
 Roath Harlequins v. Pentyrch.—To be played at Pentyrch. The following will represent the 'Quins:—Back, James German; three-quarter backs, George

On 2nd November 1895 we get to know of another Whitchurch team, Whitchurch Stars, this was in The Evening Express.

neither side scoring.
 Whitchurch Stars v. St. Peter's Second.—This match was played at Roath Park, and the result of an exciting game was:—St. Peter's Second, 1 try; Whitchurch Stars, 1 try.
 Old Monktonians v. Llandaff Reserves.—Played at Llandaff, and resulted in a win for the Old Monk-

On the 8th November 1895 the Whitchurch team to play Lydbrook at home was published in The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. LYDBROOK.
 To be played at Whitchurch. Kick-off at three o'clock sharp. Whitchurch team:—Back, J. C. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining, B. M. Thomas (captain), Thomas Thomas, and R. Nicholas; half-backs, W. Edney and T. Howells; forwards, T. Richards, W. Broad, E. Boyer, T. John, W. Nicholls, W. Stockden, A. Moss, and W. Oldfield.

The match report appearing in The South Wales Daily News on 11th November 1895 The South Wales Daily News

their game

CATHAYS 0 0 1

WHITCHURCH v LYDBROOK.

These teams met at Whitchurch for the first time this season before a fair number of spectators, the ground being in a rather slippery condition. W. Stocken kicked off for Whitchurch. J. Lear replied and the visitors immediately invaded the home territory, where a scrum was formed from which the visitors broke away and carried the ball over, but only a minor resulted. From the kick-out play was in the Whitchurch 25. Here several scrums ensued, and Bevan getting possession passed to Dobbs, who was promptly floored. From an ensuing scrum Howells passed out nicely to Radley Thomas, who went away well and transferred to T. Thomas, the latter being pushed into touch near the centre. Here the visitors got away to the home territory, and Dobbs being prominent scored. The place failed. Immediately after restarting, the visitors, through the instrumentality of Cole and Cox took the ball well into the home quarters, where R. Thomas saved, the home citadel being now in great danger. Ultimately, W. Edney brought relief by a good run. The ball was now sent to Radley, who, by a long kick, sent the ball over, Evans touching down. From the drop-out Ward went away well, and was only collared by Evans, the home back, when within dangerous proximity of the line. Shortly after Whitchurch had to concede a minor. On re-uming the visitors assumed the aggressive, and Whitchurch were badly pressed in their 25 for some time.

HALF-TIME SCORE : G. T. M.
 LYDBROOK 0 1 3
 WHITCHURCH 0 0 0

Burgham restarted for Lydbrook. Evans returned, and a scrummage followed near the centre flag. The visitors, getting much the best of matters, worked into the home ground. From a subsequent scrummage Dobbs had very hard lines in not scoring. Whitchurch, however, gradually gained ground, and E. Boyer by a long kick sent the ball to the centre, where Howells picked up in the loose and passed to Radley Thomas, who transferred to T. Thomas. The latter went away nicely and threw to R. W. Nicholas, who was floored in the Lydbrook 25. Lydbrook, however, by smart play worked back to the half-way flag. Here from a scrummage Nicholas got hold and threw to Radley Thomas, who, after a good run up the field, threw to T. Thomas, and the latter had rather hard lines in not scoring. Scrummage after scrummage followed near the Lydbrook goal-line, and the forwards of the visiting team, who were superior to their opponents, took play to the centre before they were checked. Glendining next came off with a run, and removed play to the Lydbrook territory. The visitors however, by good play, worked back to the centre, and R. W. Nicholas, getting possession, ran to within about a dozen yards of the line he passed back to Thomas, who was quickly floored. Time was shortly afterwards called, leaving the visitors victorious, after a hard-fought game.

FINAL SCORE : G. T. M.
 LYDBROOK 0 1 3
 WHITCHURCH 0 0 0

The following week, The Evening Express, 13th November 1895, published the Whitchurch Stars team for a fixture against Roath Windsors, the team selection having no resemblance to that which we have seen representing 'Whitchurch' suggesting that this must have been a separate club.

Whitchurch Stars v. Roath Windsors.—Stars: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, G. Hicks, M. Evans, A. Hill, and D. Llewellyn; half-backs, B. Green-slade and B. Nicholas; forwards, A. Llewellyn, A. Morgan, T. Morgan, G. Clemeats, F. Grimshaw, B. Rowlands, J. Rowlands, and L. Stephens.

Usk v. Pontypool Second.—These teams will meet at Usk on Thursday. The following will represent Pontypool:—Back, Etheridge; three-quarter backs,

On the 16th November 1895 The South Wales Daily News published the team selections for Whitchurch 2nds home game against Barry 2nds

F. Llewellyn, A. Morgan, W. Gardner, and W. Griffiths.

WHITCHURCH 2ND v. BARRY 2ND.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch 2nd—Back, D. Rowland (capt.); three-quarter backs, R. Evans, A. Thomas, S. Evans, and T. Adams; half-backs, I. George and H. B. Wade; forwards, T. Maddox, P. Lewis, W. Evans, S. Fitzgerald, T. John, W. Broad, W. Salmon, and C. Samuel. Barry 2nd—Back, J. Howells; three-quarter backs, T. Dowdeswell (capt.), A. Dunn, A. Denning, and T. Hedges; half-backs, T. Slecombe and T. Welsh; forwards, H. Roberts, J. Stevens, F. Deans, W. H. Thomas, W. Pullin, S. Dyer, G. Brooks, and H. Atheral

MR E. KINLOCH'S v. MR E. AXTON'S XV.—At the

Things went awry at this time and it didn't go down well, reported in The Barry Dock News on 22nd November 1895 (Right)

FOOTBALL.

BARRY v. WHITCHURCH.—This match was to have been played at Barry Docks on Saturday last, but much disappointment was felt at the non-appearance of Whitchurch, this being the fourth occasion on which Barry have been similarly treated by Cardiff district teams.—It is to be hoped that the Barry club will bring the matter before the notice of the District Union, and secure substantial recompense for the loss they have sustained through the unworthy action of the Whitchurch team.

PENARTH "A" v. CINDERFORD.—This match was played at Penarth on Saturday last before

Here's a good write up, Whitchurch just lost out again, but a close fought encounter against Canton from The South Wales Daily News on 25th November 1895

On the 29th November 1895 this 2nds team (below) was selected for a home game against Mackintosh 2nds.

to come down within an ace of scoring.

WHITCHURCH v CANTON.

The above teams met on Saturday on the ground of the former, before a poor number of spectators. Both teams were poorly represented. Teams:—Canton—Back, R. Hines; three-quarter backs, G. Priest, Fegan, Fox, and Williams; half-backs, Nott and Jackson; forwards, F. Thomas (captain), L. Evans, D. Evans, E. Harding, H. Bennett, E. Johnson, and W. Marshall. Whitchurch—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, J. Glendining, T. Thomas, R. Thomas, and D. Chisslett; half-backs, J. Chard and T. Howells; forwards, W. Oldfield, E. Boyer, E. Parsons, W. Broad, T. Adams, W. John, W. Salmon, and W. Winter.

E. Boyer commenced operations for Whitchurch against a strong wind, and the ball was well returned. The homesters immediately invaded the Canton territory, where a scrum took place. Glendining got away, but was floored ere he could gain much ground. The visiting forwards rushed to the centre, where from a line-out Canton were seen to advantage, and got well into the home quarters. Scrum after scrum ensued, and T. Thomas had a pass and punted well. Radley Thomas and Chisslett following in smart fashion collared Hines before he could reply. Canton however retaliated, and forced play back to the home territory. From a line-out here E. Boyer was prominent with a good dribble. Whitchurch, for infringement, were given a free, and Radley Thomas sent the ball into the Canton 25, but the visitors soon worked back into the home ground. Boyer put in a timely kick and removed play to the centre. The Canton backs next came off with a good bout of passing. Radley Thomas brought down Williams when about a dozen yards of the line. Give-and-take play followed. From a scrum near the division line T. Thomas got away well and ran into the Canton territory, where he gave up to Chisslett. The latter was, however, promptly brought down. Half-time was shortly afterwards called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH	.....	0	0	0
CANTON	.....	0	0	0

Canton restarted, and T. Thomas responded to mid-territory, where a scrumage followed, and the visitors, getting the best of this, gained ground. Whitchurch now played with great determination, and forced play near the Canton line, where a few scrummages took place, and the ball was taken over the line, but only a minor ensued. The kick-out saw play in neutral ground, and Howells, by a long kick, gained a lot of ground for Whitchurch. Canton were badly pressed in their 25 for some time. The visiting backs, however, by some good play, got back to near the division, where a scrum ensued. Chard passed to Howells, who passed to Chisslett, who thereon passed to Radley Thomas. The latter dodged about half-a-dozen opponents and transferred to J. Glendining, the sprinter scoring at the corner after a grand run. Howells failed to convert. Following the kick-out Canton played up well, and penned the homesters in their ground for some time. Ultimately D. Evans scored after a dodgy run. Hines converted. Time was soon after called, leaving Canton the winners after a hard fought game.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
CANTON	.....	1	0	0
WHITCHURCH	.....	0	1	1

REMARKS.

Macgregor, and W. Phillips.

Whitchurch Seconds v. Mackintosh Seconds.—To be played at Whitchurch, kick off at three o'clock. Whitchurch:—Back, E. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, Steve Evans, R. Evans, A. Thomas, and S. Body; half-backs, Ivor George and P. Chard; forwards, W. Salmon, T. John, W. Evans, D. B. Wade, T. Maddox, P. Lewis, C. Samuel, and W. Brood.

Crescent Juniors v. Roath Windsors.—To be played at the Roath Park. Crescents: Back, W. Riches;

Something went wrong here also, which doesn't do much for the reputation, 2nd December 1895 The South Wales Daily News

minor points being only scored.
MACKINTOSH V. WHITCHURCH 2ND.—This match (under Cardiff District Union) was to have been played at the Roath Park. The Mackintosh were on the field, but Whitchurch failed to turn up.
PENYLAN A V. CARDIFF ALBIONS.—Played at Roath Park, and resulted in a win for Penylan by 1 field goal

On 6th December 1895, The Evening Express published the team selections for the Whitchurch vs Cathays fixture to be played at Whitchurch.

(captain), M. Lewis, and O. Evans.
WHITCHURCH V. CATHAYS.
 To be played at Whitchurch. The home team will be:—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, J. B. Glendining, D. Chisslett, T. Thomas, and D. M. Thomas; half-backs, J. Chard and W. Edney; forwards, W. Stockden, D. Nicholls, W. Oldfield, E. Parsons, W. Broad, T. Richards, E. Boyer, T. John, and R. Moss. Cathays team:—Back, G. Stevens; three-quarter backs, E. R. Evans (captain), C. Kelly, W. H. Jones, and Sanders; half-backs, W. Rees and C. Burrows; forwards, H. Hall, C. Spackman, T. Phillips, E. Pearce, D. R. Goss, J. Sutton, W. Sexton, and R. Matthews.

The report for this game was published in The South Wales Daily News on 9th December 1895

ABERDARE 0 0 0
WHITCHURCH v CATHAYS.
 Played at Whitchurch before a good number of on-lookers. The visitors kicked off, and a scrum immediately followed in the home 25. Whitchurch were given a free, and the ball was sent into touch near the centre. From the line-out Whitchurch were seen to advantage, and got into the Cathays territory. Here Broad broke through a scrum and sent the ball over, and the visitors had to concede a minor. Following the kick-out play was in the visitors' quarters. The visiting backs came off with a bout of passing and removed play to the centre. Here for an infringement they were given a free, but nothing came of this. Cathays now came off with a rush, and took the ball to within a dozen yards of the line. Here from a scrum W. Rees had hard lines in not scoring.
HALF-TIME SCORE : G. T. M.
WHITCHURCH 0 0 1
CATHAYS 0 0 0
 W. Oldfield restarted for Whitchurch. C. Kelly replied into touch at the centre. J. Glendining put in a timely kick and sent the ball near the Cathays line. Cathays, however, retaliated strongly and forced play into the Whitchurch 25. Give-and-take play ensued. Eventually J. Glendining got possession in the Cathays 25 and ran down the field in smart fashion and scored at the corner. The place was unsuccessful. Following the kick-out the visitors, by some smart play, worked into the Whitchurch 25, and here Evans, the visiting captain, picked up, and dodging his men in fine style, scored behind the posts. The place failed.
FINAL SCORE : G. T. M.
WHITCHURCH 0 1 1
CATHAYS 0 1 0
PORTHCAWL COLLEGE v CARDIFF VILLA.

Here's evidence of yet another Whitchurch team, 'Whitchurch Harlequins', this was published in the Western Mail on 16th December 1895 and it seems that they were a junior side if the other cutting dated 18th December 1895 from The Evening Express is anything to go by.

forest. Result.—Wanderers, one try; Glyntaff, nil.
 Whitchurch Harlequins v. St. Peter's Second.— Played on the ground of the former, the result being —Whitchurch 'Quins, two tries (one disputed); St. Peter's, one try.
 Loudouns v. Cardiff United.—Played at Cathays. The Loudouns, from half-time, played fourteen men,

FOOTBALL.
 Whitchurch Harlequin Football Club Want Fixtures (average age, 17). Want Home Match for Saturday.— Apply B. Greenslade, secretary, Whitchurch. ez19
 Ton Rangors have Next Saturday Open; Home; return given. Have also F-w Vacancies after Christmas.
 —Write D. S. Eimon, Rock House, Gelli, Ton Pentre. e8669z20

Things are just not going our way, typified by this away game against Llandaff just before Christmas, 23rd December 1895, The South Wales Daily News.

consideration is certain to be given to the regrettable affair of the Welsh Rugby Union.

LLANDAFF v WHITCHURCH.

The above teams met on the ground of the former before a fair gate, the ground being in fine football condition. E. Boyer commenced operations for Whitchurch, and the ball was well returned by Arkell and a scrum was immediately formed at the centre. Llandaff, getting rather the best of this, carried play into the Whitchurch territory, where Stockden put in a good kick and removed play to the centre. Here for an irregularity Whitchurch were awarded a free, but little advantage came of this. Give-and-take play ensued. Eventually Llandaff, by a bout of passing, got into the home 25. A few scrums were here fought, and W. Edney got the ball away nicely to Evans, who ran well into the visitors' 25 ere he was stopped. The City boys however, by some good play, worked back in the home 25. Eventually P. Chard, who played a good game, brought relief by a long kick, and the home forwards following up in smart fashion took the ball to within a dozen yards of the Llandaff line. Arkell saved. From a subsequent scrum the ball was sent over and Llandaff had to concede a minor.

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
WHITCHURCH	.....	0	0	1
LLANDAFF	.....	0	0	0

W. Bickford restarted for Llandaff. T. Thomas replied. Play settled down in the home 25, where a few scrums ensued. W. Broad now got off with a good dribble. The visitors, however, got away with a good round of passing, and took the ball to within dangerous proximity of the home line. Ultimately J. Edney got possession and scored at the corner. The place was unsuccessful. Immediately after the kick-out the Whitchurch men were compelled to concede a minor. On resuming Whitchurch played up much better, and penned the visitors in their 25 for some time. Eventually F. Matthews brought much wanted relief by a good kick to the centre, where T. Thomas got away well and dodged his opponents beautifully, and had rather hard lines in not scoring. Time was soon after called, leaving play in the Llandaff territory.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
LLANDAFF	.....	0	1	2
WHITCHURCH	.....	0	0	1

ABERAMAN v BLACKWOOD.

Just when you think you can put your feet up for a well earned break with the family, the fixtures showed that Whitchurch (among others) were scheduled for a home game against St Michael's on Christmas Day. Not just that but Whitchurch also played on Boxing Day, winning at home against Great Western (Pontypridd) in what seems to have been a morning game and anyone left standing also played in a 'charity match' in the afternoon in a representative match between Whitchurch and Melingriffith for a local young player not in the best of health, what a wonderful community gesture.



The Western Mail 26th December 1895

As wonderful as this is, isn't it also incredible to think that newspapers remained in print over the Christmas period?

This ended newspaper coverage for 1895 and as you've seen it was quite extensive, 1898 and onwards for a few years was the same. It was a measure of the high regard that Whitchurch Rugby Football Club was held, the rising popularity of the game and also the various newspapers' striving to go to print in order to capture the market. It's clear that both The Evening Express and The South Wales Daily News provided most of the coverage and would have had a firm commitment to seek out sporting events of interest, week in week out. As far as Whitchurch Rugby is concerned it was a period of mixed results, for a few seasons it seemed that the club were on the up, developing a decent side and fostering a link with Cardiff Rugby Football Club, but, over this last year expectations were not met. Part of the reason for this seems to have been the loss of key players, men who had opted to further their talent elsewhere, one of the attractions would have been the prestigious fixtures other clubs were developing for themselves and lets be fair, any and every player needs to play at the highest level they can attain.

1896

The first game of the New Year was to be a home game against Cardiff Hornets, the team selections being published in The Evening Express on 3rd January 1896. But, this match "was abandoned, owing to the Hornets failing to raise a team". Just below this was the team to represent Whitchurch Harlequins which resulted in a win for Harlequins by 3 goals and 1 try to nil.

On top of this the club also had to deal with another issue coming their way, the possible loss of another of their talented players, 9th January 1896 The Evening Express, although this didn't sit well with Ponty who refuted the claim sending in a letter to The Evening Express who printed it on 14th January 1896 (bottom right). Clearly the club had its problems and here the washing was hung out for all to see.

On the 11th January 1896 The Evening Express showed the scoreline "Monktonians, one try; Whitchurch, nil".

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF HORNETS

At Whitchurch. The Hornets are requested to meet at North-road, Duke-street end, at 2.30 sharp. Hornets: Back, J. E. Jones; three-quarter backs, A. Owen (captain), A. J. Wright, T. Jones, and S. Howell; half-backs, S. Preece and D. D. Bowen; forwards, D. Adams, G. A. Bevan, W. J. Coeks, H. Eddins, J. Eddins, W. Greenstale, I. P. Forster, W. Shyca, and W. N. Reynolds. Whitchurch: Back, C. Dolson; three-quarter backs, Tom John, Thomas Thomas, Ivor Edney, and Steve Evans; forwards, W. Oldfield (captain), W. Nicholls, W. Stockden, E. Parsons, W. Evans, W. Salmon, V. Taylor, and B. Symons.

BRYNMAWR "A" V. BLAENAVON "A."

At Blaenavon. The following will represent Brynmawr:—Back, J. Wethers; three-quarter backs, B. White, H. R. Lewis, T. Morgan, and W. J. Evans; half-backs, M. Trew and E. C. Proat; forwards, D. Morgan (captain), J. Evans, D. Davies, T. Overton, A. Williams, J. Rosser, D. Williams, and C. Rowlands.

Whitchurch Harlequins v. Loudouns Seconds.—To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, G. Hicks; three-quarter backs, J. Thomas, M. Evans, T. Adams, and J. Llewellyn; half-backs, B. Greenstale and A. Harrington; forwards, B. Roper, D. Davies (captain), J. Bowen, A. Morgan, F. Morgan, D. Llewellyn, A. Llewellyn, and G. Clements.

It is stated that D. M. Thomas left Whitchurch on Monday for Yorkshire, and has obtained his transfer from Whitchurch to Castleford F.C. During the last month or so Thomas has been approached, I am told, by several Yorkshiremen with a view to playing for their club. He had also, according to the same informant, received pressing invitations from Llwynypia and Pontypridd, although it was well known to both these clubs that Thomas was captain of Whitchurch. My correspondent asks: "Are Welsh Rugby Union clubs allowed to poach in this way?"

Severe as the sentence may have been which

defeat.

Dear "Welsh Athlete,"—In your notes of Thursday you state that Thomas, of Whitchurch, has received pressing offers from our club. You will, I am sure, allow me to state that this is quite untrue. Thomas played for us once on an off-date—a Monday—and personally asked me whether we wanted him, as he thought Whitchurch were about to break up. Our committee picked him conditionally on his obtaining his transfer. There our connection with him ended, as far as I know. There is no "poaching" in this, and I am sure that the Welsh Rugby Union have no more loyal supporters than the officials and committee of the Pontypridd Club.—I am, &c.,

WALTER E. SUMMERS,
Hon. Secretary, Pontypridd F.C.

It didn't take much longer for the entire matter to reach a conclusion and on 15th January 1896 The South Wales Daily News published this bombshell.

Another Welsh Player Off to Yorkshire,
At a meeting of the Committee of the Yorkshire Rugby Union, held at Leeds, an application was received for the transfer of D. R. Thomas from Whitchurch to Castleford. The transfer was granted subject to its being confirmed by the Welsh Rugby Union.

DEVONPORT ALBION V. CARDIFF, Cardiff Arms Park, Saturday, Jan. 18, 1896. Kick-off 3 o'clock. 6566
TONGWYNLAIS JUNIORS require match home January 18th and other dates.—Arthur Evans, Melbourne Villa, Tongwynlais. 575

To rub salt in the wounds.....On the 18th January 1896 The Evening Express published a report on General Meeting of the general committee of the Welsh Football Union which was held at the Queen's Hotel, Cardiff, in that meeting "The transfer of Radley Thomas, from Whitchurch to Castleford was deferred pending inquiries".

Having lost some of the star men, the club needed to stop the rot by bringing in reinforcements and this report of 16th March 1896 in The South Wales Daily News showed that player recruitment was well underway.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
CARDIFF		3	0	2
NEATH		0	0	2

WHITCHURCH v. ROATH.
Played at Whitchurch. The teams were as follows :
—Whitchurch—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter

(continued right)

backs, P. Chard, T. Thomas, T. Adams, and A. Thomas half-backs, J. Chard (captain) and W. Edney; forwards, A. Moss, W. Broad, W. Solomon, W. Oldfield, J. Criddle, C. Brain, C. Moss, and V. Taylor. **Roath—**Back, T. Whitney; three-quarter backs, T. Powell, W. H. Williams, G. Davies, and T. Brady; half-backs, N. Griffiths and F. Newton; forwards, T. Davies (captain), J. Batstone, W. John, W. Williams, J. Mills, G. Bowler, J. Viney, and D. Thomas. Referee, Mr G. W. Gibbon, Grangetown. The home team started with the wind and sun in their faces, but during the opening stages of the game maintained the upper hand. This was in great measure due to the greater spirit displayed by the home pack, who made a capital show against their heavier opponents. During the latter part of the first half the Roath three-quarters made several runs, but the home defence was too good for them, Chard at half doing plenty of good work.

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
ROATH		0	0	0
WHITCHURCH		0	0	0

On resuming the Roath pack played up more vigorously and forced their way to the home quarter line, but Jimmy Chard and the home pack got away with a good dribble to the Roath end. The Roath vanguard, led by Bowler, dashed back to the centre, where Adams saved, but Davies punted to the home 25 flag, and Roath once more assumed the aggressive. Play kept very fast, and a clever punt by the home custodian found the home team again attacking hotly. For the remainder of the game there was little to pick between the teams. The visitors brought off some clever wheels, but the Whitchurch halves were very smart, J. Chard saving time after time. Time was called.

FINAL SCORE:		G.	T.	M.
ROATH		0	0	0
WHITCHURCH		0	0	0

On 21st February 1896 The Evening Express published this team selection for a home game against Canton. On the face of it, nothing unusual, but, some of this Whitchurch team are reinforced with men known to be Llandaff Yard players, (3 brothers in particular, a moment of self indulgence with apologies to readers).

CANTON V. WHITCHURCH.
To be played at Whitchurch. Canton team:—Back, J. E. Jones; three-quarter backs, F. Fox, T. Rees, E. R. Evans, and A. Owen; half-backs, J. Hevans and W. Jackson; forwards, F. Thomas, C. Harding, D. Rees, W. Jenkins, D. J. Evans, E. Harding, and W. Lawrence. Whitchurch: Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, B. Roper, Joe Enly, T. Thomas, and J. B. Giendining (captain); half-backs, Brothers Chard; forwards, W. Salmon, W. Broad, A. Mass, W. Steekden, C. Brain, W. Nicholls, J. Criddle, and W. Oldfield.

MORRISTON V. ABERAVON.
To be played at Aberavon. Aberavon team:

The plot thickens, just a day later The Evening Express, 22nd February 1896, then publish this update on our local clubs

It's difficult to say whether the journalist actually means Llandaff (RFC), or whether it should read Llandaff Yard (RFC). A bit of family background suggests it would be Llandaff Yard.

Here's the outcome of the Canton game, the recruitment drive just wasn't enough to earn a win, 24th February 1896 The Evening express

By now there are clear indicators that things are not as they should be and the AGM revealed a lot about the difficulties the club were facing.

On 23rd July 1896 The Evening Express published this summary of that AGM with a fair contingent of Llandaff Yard people being appointed to steer the club.

As there is no first-class match to be played at Cardiff to-day the meeting of the Canton Football Club with the fifteen which is to be put upon the field by the Llandaff and Whitchurch clubs, who have amalgamated, should prove a considerable attraction. The game will be played at Whitchurch. Both teams are fully represented, and that playing for what is practically a new organisation is especially so. They will have the advantage of playing upon their own ground; but, even with this point in their favour, it is no great odds on their winning, for Canton of late have been performing surprisingly well. Therefore I look forward to a close struggle, which should be well worth watching.

Dear "Welsh Athlete."—I am, for one, cordially

WHITCHURCH V. CANTON.

These teams met on the Whitchurch enclosure on Saturday afternoon, before a small crowd of spectators. The following were the teams:—Canton: Back, J. E. Jones; three-quarter backs, E. R. Evans, A. Owen, E. Fox, and T. Rees; half-backs, Jackson and Evans; forwards, D. Evans, Jenkins, Thomas, Seaborne, Lawrence, J. Harding, T. Harding, and Hall. Whitchurch: Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, Jimmy Chard, Joe Hedney, Tom Thomas, and R. Roper; half backs, Peter Chard and Stockden; forwards, Oldfield, W. Solomon, T. Adams, Broad, A. Thomas, C. Brain, W. Phillips, and B. Simmonds. Mr. George Gibbons officiated as referee. Whitchurch kicked off, and momentarily pressed, but a strong kick by the visiting right centre three-quarter took play back to the centre, where Evans, picking up, ran strongly and nearly scored for Canton. A moment or so later the visitors' full back picked up just on the home 25 line and dropped a beautiful goal. From now to half-time Canton did all the pressing, but could not improve upon their position. Half-time score:—Canton, one dropped goal and one minor; Whitchurch, nil. Resuming, the Canton forwards took the ball up the field in fine style, but an injudicious long kick carried the ball over the dead line when a score seemed inevitable. The homesters were now being penned within their 25 continuously, and from a scrum formed almost on the line Tommy Rees managed to get over. The kick at goal failed. Final score:—Canton, one dropped goal, one try, and two minors; Whitchurch, nil.

CRUMLIN V. MERTHYR.

FOOTBALL.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Whitchurch Football Club was held at the club-room, Fox and Hounds Inn, Whitchurch, on Wednesday evening. In past seasons the club has been rather unfortunate in being deprived, through unforeseen circumstances, of the services of the officers appointed for duty during the football term, which fact had a discouraging effect both upon the numerical and financial status of the organisation. It is hoped, therefore, that this year's selection of officers and officials will enable the club to attain its former proud and substantial position. The appointments were as follow:—President, Mr. Councillor J. Allan; secretary, Mr. J. Criddle (Llandaff Yard); captain, Mr. W. Broad; vice-captain, Mr. P. Chard; committee, Messrs. V. Taylor, J. Chard, T. Howell, D. Rowlands, J. George, W. Solomon, and C. Moss.

A little difficult to decipher, but, this seems to have been a junior game between The Avondales (Splott) and Whitchurch Boys and the text suggests that teams were limited to just 9 a side and that teams were given handicaps according to their ability. In this instance the Splott side were clear favourites and lived up to it. It was 12th September 1896 from The Evening Express (right). It's worth including just to show that Whitchurch was making an effort to develop young players. It makes you wonder just how long this system lasted, but this cutting below, same date, same newspaper, perhaps explains things a little better but these reports confuse us even more with the end result.

mably, Davies, play a big ar, are sibly, ce. At to be Sweet- It is r, that At open lorman wing? ible to ample, ht for his old r that he left m, for whilst, ll, and l there ndeck available. t until t full- ondon b will atches. giving like I myself d have sition. special r good d, will as last ones, ld not world

Splott Boys v. Village Boys---Whitchurch.

Up to this point the efforts of the handicapper had not been attended with great success, for in each case the team receiving points would have even had the sides start level. The third match was between the above side, who were handicapped at 26 points and 20 points respectively, and played as follows: Splott.—S. Hill (captain), Waitney, W. Thomas, D. Thomas, A. Tooze, A. Mills, H. Young, N. Griffiths, and W. John. Whitchurch.—D. Rowlands, P. Phard, Thomas, Adams, Ivor George, W. Broad, W. Solomon, A. Moes, and W. Oldfield. This match was one of the best seen up to the present, though the play was not of a very high-class description. The Whitchurch lads were very smart behind the scrummage, and their halves frequently dribbled past the opposing pair. The cleverness in this department resulted on a score just before half-time, which arrived with the score:—

Splott Boys—Nil (and 26 points start)
26 points.
Whitchurch Boys—1 goal (and 20 points start), 25 points.

Thus the Villagers were only one point behind, and they set to work with a will to change the margin into one in their favour. After some loose play in the centre, they took up a position right in front of their opponents' goal, but, after a stay in that locality of a couple of moments, a punt by one of the Splott backs relieved the pressure. Then, after a red-headed Splottander had occasioned some amusement by not over gently handing off the best stri of his home opponents one by one, a Whitchurch threequarter got over, and, as the try was goaled, his side obtained a lead of four points. Directly afterwards Splott scored, but the kick, though a good one, just missed, and Whitchurch, therefore, won an exciting match by one point. Final score:—

Whitchurch Boys—2 goals (and 20 points start), 30 points.
Splott Boys—1 try (and 26 points start), 29 points.

The Avondale Team (9 points)—A bye.

SECOND ROUND.
Cathays United v. The Dolphins.
On the form displayed in the previous

points.
THE AVONDALES V. WHITCHURCH BOYS.
In this, the second game of the second round, the Avondale nine had the advantage of being quite fresh, not having played a

SEPTEMBER 12, 1896.

vicously in the tournament, while the Whitchurch men had had their strength taxed by a pretty stiff encounter with the Splottlanders. Still, after the good form shown by the latter in the first round they were hot favourites, as they had twenty points start and their opponents nine. The Avondale team was—F. Cornish (captain), F. Salmoni, C. Williams, J. Williams, H. Prole, J. Stevens, C. Spackman, T. Williams, and C. Harrison. From the commencement Avnodale pressed, and soon scored a try behind the posts, which was, however, not converted. This they soon afterwards supplemented by a second, the kick again failing, so that had reduced the lead held by the Whitchurch boys by six points, but were still five behind. Nothing further was scored at half-time, when the score read:—

Whitchurch (20 points start), 20 points.
Avondale, two tries (and 9 points start) 15 points.

In the second moiety Whitchurch played up against the heavier Avondale men with much pluck and spirit until about five minutes from time. A strong rush resulted in Avondale scoring a third try in the corner, the kick again failing. To this a fourth was quickly added right behind the posts, and a goal was kicked. Then time was called, Avondale being left victors by three points. Score:—

Avondale—1 goal, 3 tries (and 9 points start), 23 points.
Whitchurch—Nil (and 20 points start), 20 points.

VISIT OF THE LLANELLY BAND.
During the interval which preceded the

On the 19th September 1896 The South Wales daily News published fixtures and teams for the weekend games among them being a match between Whitchurch vs Heath Rovers

It never rains, it pours, discontent within, something is just not right, just as you might expect the club's fortunes to turn around they were hit with another bombshell and so early in the season, 10th October 1896 The Evening Express

Football affairs at Whitchurch are not altogether as they should be. The players living at the Heath end of the village have become dissatisfied with the way in which they have been treated by the Whitchurch Club, and have formed an organisation of their own, which they have christened the Heath Club. We know Whitchurch is a pushing little place, but one hardly thinks it is to the good of the game there to run two teams.

Just to set the backdrop to all this turmoil, the 'Heath/Whitchurch' team went on to play games of their own, evidenced by this report dated 14th December 1896 from The South Wales Daily News.

HEATH ROVERS, WHITCHURCH v ADAMS-DOWN, CARDIFF.

These teams met for the second time this season on the ground of the former at Whitchurch this afternoon. The homesters were considerably strengthened by the services of Tom Dobson, the excellent Cardiff forward, whilst the visitors played five substitutes. Adamsdown started the ball rolling, and the first scrum was formed in the centre, where the homesters were penalised for not putting the ball in straight. From the kick the visitors got to the home line, where they were again awarded a free, but lost Ground. Tom Dobson got away from a scrum, but was quickly pulled down. One of the home three-quarters dropped over the line and a minor resulted. Following this, Dobson again got possession and scored behind the posts, which was converted. Half-time was soon after called, with the score reading—

HALF-TIME SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
HEATH ROVERS	1	0	1	
ADAMSDOWN	0	0	0	

After the interval F. Stone resumed, and a good return was made to the centre, where play settled for a time. The home halves got away and worked to the visitors' line. As a result of a fine bout of passing, Tom John scored. The kick failed.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
HEATH ROVERS.....	1	1	1	
ADAMSDOWN	0	0	0	

CARDIFF RESERVES v PONTYMYSTED

There was a good tight game against Romilly, but still no win, 19th October 1896 The South Wales Daily News.

WHITCHURCH v CARDIFF ROMILLY.

Played at Whitchurch before a poor number of onlookers. W. Salmon started for the homesters, the exchanges which followed resulting in play settling down near the division line, where a series of scrums ensued. The half-time score was : Romilly, 2 minors ; Whitchurch, nil. After lemons a scrum was immediately formed in the Romilly territory, where Ivor George got possession and passed to T Thomas, who ran to within a few yards of the line and transferred to P. Chard, who scored. Salmon converted.

Resuming the visitors played much better, and Hopkins from a scrum in neutral ground picked up and passed to C. Thomas, who ran near the home line. Here, from a scrum, Hines rushed over with a try. The place failed. The kick-out saw the home ground invaded. Usher and Hart came off with a nice bit of passing, which resulted in Hart scoring after a good run: Usher converted. Soon after the kick out Hiddie scored another try for Romilly.

FINAL SCORE :		G.	T.	M.
ROMILLY	2	1	2	
WHITCHURCH	1	0	0	

TONDU v COWBRIDGE.
On the ground of the former in grand weather, and

To add to the player 'migration' issue, The Evening Express sports columnist get in on the act publishing this snippet on 24th October 1896

I must confess I am at a loss to understand the extraordinary interest taken in the movements of D. Evans, the Penygraig-cum-international forward. The two Swansea papers have located him in different parts of the West. To-day my Llanelly correspondent comes along and says that Evans is somewhere in the lower part of Carmarthenshire, adding as a sort of gentle remark that Llanelly is the nearest football centre. Now, I know, as a matter of fact, that Evans is located at Whitchurch. I don't think it is necessary to discuss what club he will play for, however. Anyhow, the Penygraig secretary says he is sure to assist his old team.

On 26th October 1896 The South Wales Daily News published this little report on an away game at Cowbridge.

the opening stages, and won by 2 tries to nil.
COWBRIDGE v WHITCHURCH.
 This match was played at Cowbridge, and after a very stubbornly contested game ended in a draw, each side scoring a try. The try for Whitchurch was scored by J. Kent, and B. Lewis scored for Cowbridge.
LOCAL JUNIOR RESULTS.
CLIVE THISTLES v. CANTON CRESCENTS.—Played at Canton, and resulted in a win for the Thistles by 1

The South Wales Daily News published this account of a Whitchurch away game at Ferndale on 23rd November 1896

CARMARTHEN TOWN..... 0 0 1
WHITCHURCH v FERNDALE.
 Played at Ferndale. Whitchurch kicked off and D. J. Thomas replied with a useful kick, and at once the homesters nearly scored. Munday crossed, but lost the ball. From a long kick the visitors exacted a minor. The homesters failed to take their chances. Whitchurch scored a try, which was converted.
 HALF-TIME SCORE: G. T. M.
 WHITCHURCH..... 1 0 0
 FERNDALE..... 0 0 1
 Chiny restarted and play settled in the centre. The homesters took play to the visitors' line. Glendenning brought relief by punting down the field, but the home back returned, which brought play to the visitors' 25. A scrum was formed, and the home forwards heeling out, Nathaniel received and scored a try. The kick at goal failed, and time was soon afterwards called.
 FINAL SCORE: G. T. M.
 WHITCHURCH..... 1 1 0
 FERNDALE..... 0 1 0
SWANSEA II. v. LLANDOVERY COLLEGE.

A chicken and egg situation perhaps, can't develop a good side without proper funding and generate funds without a decent side, 28th November 1896, The Evening Express.

combustibles.
 The finances of the Whitchurch Football Club are not what they should be, so a Cinderella dance will be held early in December, in the schoolroom, for the benefit of the club—a very good idea.
 On Friday betting on the great fight at

On 8th December 1896 Whitchurch 2nd XV were again advertising for fixtures in The South Wales Daily News and it's clear that obtaining fixtures for the various levels of rugby was a major undertaking and was mainly down to the individual clubs to manage their own fixture list. In this cutting we see that the club's 2nd team was comprised of youth players (16 years), The Fox and Hounds also remaining as the club's base.

869
 Cardiff.
WHITCHURCH 2ND FOOTBALL CLUB would like to arrange fixtures, home and away matches, with junior teams; age about 16.—Apply Secretary, J. Thomas, Fox and Hounds. 887
 "GWENNY VAUGHAN, or the French Invasion; ..."

It has been a tough time and the end of year dance was the order of the day, 19th December 1896
The Evening Express, 'pianoforte up the club' anyone?

possibly given
A very pleasant Cinderella dance was given on Friday evening by the members of the Whitchurch Football Club in the room which has recently been erected by Mr. Alien, of the Fox and Hounds. There was a large gathering of members and friends, who passed a pleasant time, dancing being kept up till midnight to the strains of the pianoforte, manipulated by Mr. Bains. The room itself was decorated for the occasion, and looked very pretty, while the floor was in splendid trim.

Just for the record, for anyone connected, The Evening Express published this Whitchurch Stars 2nd XV team on 24th December 1896

Whitchurch Stars Seconds v. Victoria Stars.—
Whitchurch team: Back, A. Parsons; three-quarter backs, W. King, E. Elliman, F. Nippers, and J. Hastree; half-backs, W. Stoyles and A. Parsons; forwards, G. Roberts, B. Barry, D. Tanner, W. Lee, A. Parsons, S. Neels, J. Nichols, G. Harris (captain), and T. Nippers.
Riverside Anchors v. Swansea Trinity.—To be played at Swansea.

Worthy of note here is Whitchurch RFC were named as one of the teams in a fixture list, schedule to play at home to Roath on December 25th, "Christmas Day Rugby" 1896.

1897

On 22nd January 1897 The Evening Express published the team selection for a game against Mountain Ash

MOUNTAIN ASH V. WHITCHURCH.
Whitchurch team: Back, J. E. Jones; three-quarter backs, W. Bradford, J. Hoskins, W. Williams, and H. Morgan; half-backs, Phillips (captain) and Hillman; forwards, T. Millar, M. Price, M. Watkins, L. J. Phillips, J. Davies, A. Tucker, F. Mears, and J. T. Davies.

MOUNTAIN ASH A V. TROEKY A.

On 19th February 1897 The Evening Express showed the team selection for a Whitchurch 2nds home match against Llanishen

Bartlett, and F. Warren; reserve, G. Marun.
Whitchurch Second v. Llanishen.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch team: Back, D. Seaman; three-quarter backs, B. Roper, J. Davis, J. Thomas, and D. Llewellyn; half-backs, E. Bale (captain) and J. Chard; forwards, E. Townsend, W. Winter, F. Morgan, A. Llewellyn, D. Taylor, E. Taylor, O. Bodman, and F. Seaman.
Abergavenny v. Pontymoile.—To be played at Aber-

On the face of it, this looks like a good result, 24th February 1897 The Evening Express and a full match report was published.....(below)

WHITCHURCH V. COUNTY POLICE.
Final score:—Whitchurch, one goal, two tries, and four minors; County Police, one minor.

Evans, Whitchurch.
Whitchurch won the toss, and Oldfield kicked off against the wind, E. Evans returning to half-way, where a scrum was formed. Whitchurch were awarded but no ground was gained. After a series of scrums in the centre the police got away and forced play to the Whitchurch 25. The homesters, however, worked back to the centre, where scrimmaging again took place. Whitchurch next took up the aggressive and got close to the Police line, where Keevil got possession and relieved. A series of scrums in the centre then took place, after which the Whitchurch line was warmly attacked. The home team, however, worked play back to the Police 25. A series of scrums in the centre followed, from which Keevil obtained the ball and put in a long kick, which was received by Rowlands, who ran to half-way before being brought down. After a scrum in the centre, the Police got away, and took play to the Whitchurch line. A free was awarded to the Police right in front of the posts. The kick was taken by Abrahams, but the ball passed just outside the posts. From the re-start, Whitchurch took play to the other end, where, after a few minutes play, the Police conceded a minor. From the re-start Samuels made his mark. The shot for goal was, however, a failure, a minor only resulting. From the re-start play went to the centre, where Whitchurch obtained a free, near the centre, but no ground was gained. Half-time saw play near the Police 25, and the score standing—Whitchurch, two minors; Police, one minor.

Whitchurch, two minors; Police, one minor. After the change of ends Dai Evans re-started for the Police. After some exchange kicking play settled down in the centre, from where the Police 25 was visited. The Police got their three-quarter line to work, and worked back to the centre. The Whitchurch 25 was next visited, but the team relieved back to the centre. Play was carried to the Police 25, where Keevil made his mark, and relieved to the centre. A rush by Whitchurch took the ball right to the Police line, where T. Thomas scored a try. The place kick was a failure. From the re-start, play

visited the centre, but was worked back to the Police 25. Here, from a series of scrums, Whitchurch got away, and forced a minor. From the re-start play took place at the Police 25, and in a few minutes the Police had to concede a minor. After the re-start play went to the centre, where a series of scrums were witnessed. Whitchurch obtained a free kick, which, being taken by Chard, sent the ball to the Police 25. After a short visit to the centre, play was worked back to the Police 25, where Adams getting possession, transferred to Broad, who scored right under the posts, T. Thomas easily converting. Centre play followed the re-start. After a brief visit to the Police 25, play was carried to the Whitchurch line, where the home team had the greatest difficulty in preventing a score. Whitchurch, however, made a grand effort and got away, dribbling right to the Police line, where T. Thomas kicked over and fell on the ball close to the posts, but the place kick failed. Time was then called, the score standing:—Whitchurch, one goal, two tries, and four minors; Police, one minor.

(and right)

On 1st March 1897 local results showed Taffs Well, nil; Whitchurch, one goal (from a mark).

On 5th March 1897 The Evening Express published the team selections for the home game against Old Monktonians (who went on to become Glamorgan Wanderers). The 'Monks' having to catch a break from North Road to get to Whitchurch - a 'break' was one of the old buses of the late 19thC for those not knowing.

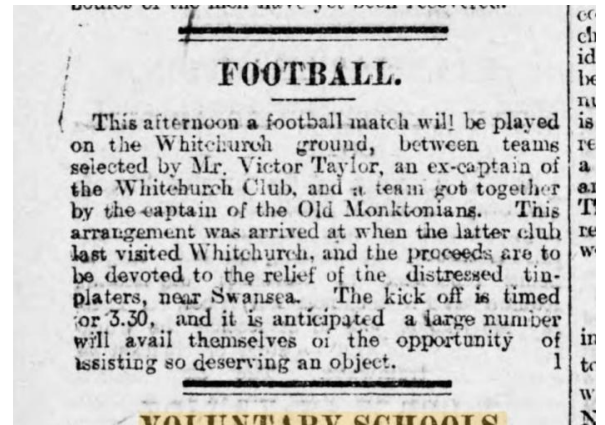
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OLD MONKTONIANS V. WHITCHURCH.
To be played at Whitchurch. Break leaves North-road at 2.30 p.m. Old Monktonians: Back, A. R. Smith; three-quarter backs, H. James, I. P. Jones, A. Morgan, and another; half-backs, L. Allan and C. Kestell; forwards, F. Box (captain), F. E. B. Champaign, J. Dyas, G. W. Jenkins, P. Lewis, J. Strachan, W. Robertson, and G. Cammon. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Thomas, T. Adams, and S. Evans; half-backs, Ivor George and J. Edney; forwards, W. Broad (captain), A. Thomas, W. Evans, J. Kent, C. Samuel, G. Prout, W. Oldfield, and V. Taylor.

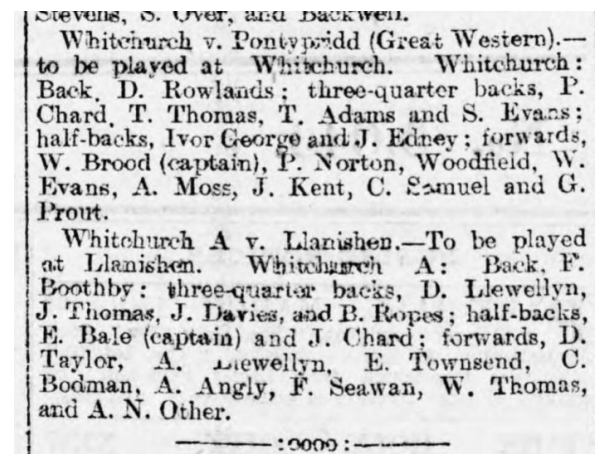
GLAMORGAN LEAGUE.—LLWYNYPIA
V. BARRY

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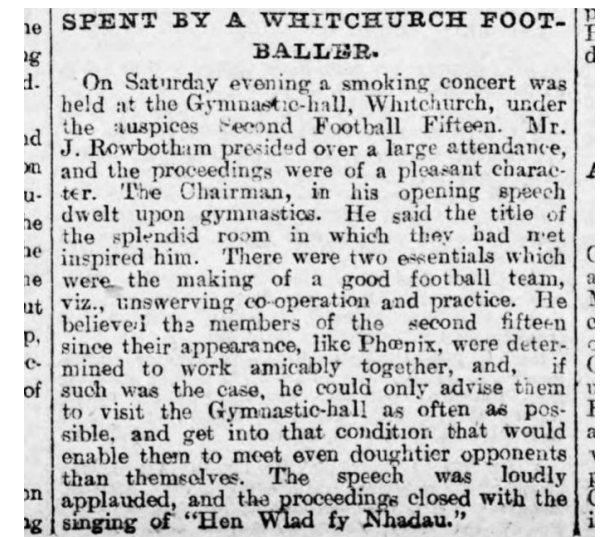
However, The Evening Express on 10th March 1897 followed up with this update which might well have been the same game as that above.



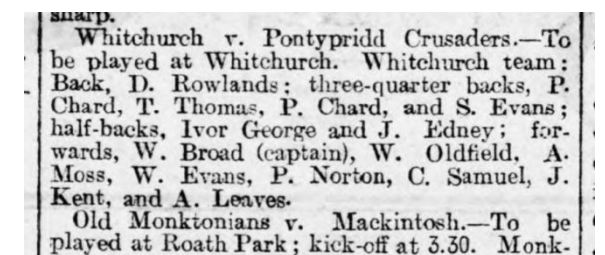
1st and 2nds had their names in print on 12th March 1897 in The Evening Express for games against Pontypridd (Great Western), presumably the railway and train workers and 2nds away at Llanishen.



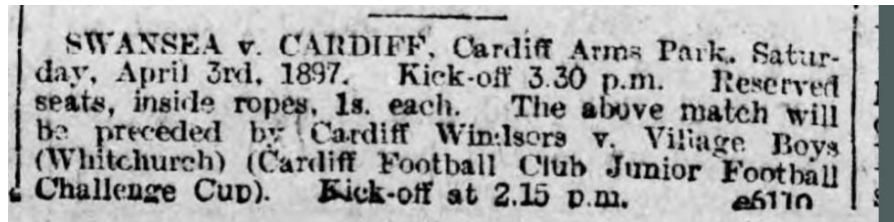
On 15th March 1897 The Evening Express published this short article on a concert for the club at the Gymnastic Hall, Whitchurch, clearly an end of season fund raiser but it's an interesting venue and is believed to be the old hall located at the bottom of Velindre Road on the site of the present day club house. The suggestion here also is that a 2nd team had presumably been resurrected after failing "like Phoenix".



On 19th March 1897 The Evening Express showed the team selection for a home game against Pontypridd Crusaders



Here's one to sneak in at the end of the season, it related to the Whitchurch juniors team that played on the old Arms Park in the final of Cardiff Football Junior Challenge Cup. 31st March 1897 The Evening Express.



We are left to wonder how they got on.....

Although the club had lost some star players they still had some up and coming talent, on 13th September 1897 four teams (A; B; C & D) were selected in trials to represent the Cardiff and District Union and among the players chosen for the trial teams were three Whitchurch players W. Broad; Wm. Salmon and C. R. Stephens.

Not only that, but, another player, D. Evans, represented the Glamorgan Police side that played against Pontypridd 17th September 1897 The South Wales Daily News

is at the present time employed at ...

GLAMORGAN POLICE V. A PONTY-PRIDD XV.

LIVELY PLAY; HEAVY SCORING.

The Glamorgan County Police team played a XV, raised by Mr Gwilym Morgan, secretary of the Pontypridd Club, on the ground of the latter on Thursday afternoon. The teams were:—*County Police*—Back, A. Keevil (Penygraig); three-quarter backs, W. E. Rees (capt.), Rhys Davies (Pontypridd), Bryce (Aberavon), and McKay (Barry Dock); half-backs, Hoyle (Tonypanyd) and Llewelyn; forwards, D. Evans (Whitchurch), J. Hill (Bridgend), H. Hale (Penarth), S. Hawkins (Merthyr), Evan Thomas (Bridgend), Rhys Price (Llandaff), L. Wride (Pontypridd), and F. Smith (Bridgend). *Mr Gwilym Morgan's team*—Back, Barnett; three-quarter backs, W. Roberts, Ll. Morgan, W. Lake and Rowlands; half, Stokes and Doran; forwards, Walter Davies (capt.), Ernest, George, D. Roberts, W. Rees, M. Davies, Hy. James, E. Lewis, and J. Coslett. Referee, Mr Teddy Lewis. The scorers for the Police were Llewellyn and D. Evans (International), two tries each, Bruce, Hoyle, and Hill; for Pontypridd, Roberts, Coslett, Walter Davies, and Rowlands contributed a try each. A good game resulted in favour of the visitors.

	G.	T.	M.
POLICE	3	4	2
PONTYPRIDD	0	4	1

GLoucester (W. H. TAYLOR'S XV.) V. CINDER-

On 20th September 1897, early in the season, the club advertised for fixtures in The South Wales Daily News.

International Teams and Premier Clubs. Write for catalogue.—E. Roberts, 30, Duke-street, Cardiff, 267e

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB have the following as open dates of the above Club, viz., September 25th, 1897, at Whitchurch, half gate, or return on February 25th, March 18th, or April 2nd, 11th, and 16th, 1898.

Address J. Criddle,
Hon. Sec. Whitchurch F.C.,
Llandaff Yard, near Cardiff.

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On 11th October 1897 Whitchurch lost away at Roath Park against Mackintosh by 1 penalty goal and 3 tries to nil and on the 8th November local results showed that Whitchurch had beaten Raglan: Whitchurch, 1 goal 3 tries; Raglan, nil.

On 3rd December 1897 The Evening Express published the Whitchurch team for a home game against Penarth

Jones, and B. Bird.
Whitchurch v. Penarth A.—To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, D. Cory, T. Adams, T. Thomas, and P. Chard (captain); half-backs, S. Hansen and T. Howells; forwards W. Salmon, W. Evans, A. Moss, G. Prout, W. Broad, P. Norton, T. Davies, and E. Boyer.
Cardiff Nomads v. Roath.—To be played at the Sophia Gardens. Roath: Back, G. Daly; three-quarter backs, A. Wright, C. Lewis, F.

The result of this match was published in The South Wales Daily News on 6th December 1897

HARLEQUINS 0 2 0
MOUNTAIN ASH 2ND..... 0 0 0

WHITCHURCH v PENARTH A.

At Whitchurch. Solomon started for the home-sters, and play settled down in midfield. Good passing initiated by Chivers enabled Penarth to press. Chivers soon again became prominent and scored under the posts. The kick failed. Even play followed to half-time. Upon restarting the homesters obtained an endless list of minors. T. Thomas then secured and scored a tricky try, which was not converted. Solomon followed with two and Howells one in quick succession, two of which were converted.

FINAL SCORE :		G. T. M.
WHITCHURCH	2	2 6
PENARTH	0	1 0

TITANELLY CUP.

Here's an interesting feature of these games, on 9th December 1897 The South Wales Echo published this advert for Whitchurch seeking a match for the following weekend and offering half the gate money to attract interest.

DECEMBER 24th and 25th; Seconds for Christmas Day, December 25th; guarantee.—Jones, Secretary.
Whitchurch have December 11th open for good local team; half gate.—Wire or write Allan, Fox and Hounds, Whitchurch. 685
A GRAND FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT of 15 players a-side, confined to junior teams, average age 18, will take place at the Taff Vale Park, Pontypridd, on

On 11th December 1897 The Evening Express published a report on the Whitchurch home game against Cardiff Romilly with a disallowed try causing some discontent.

CARDIFF ROMILLY V. WHITCHURCH.

Played at Whitchurch. Solomon commenced operations, and the Romillys pressed. Chard relieved, and good play by the home forwards removed the veil. The visitors retaliated with a fine dribble, and Rowlands scored. Play continued in the home territory, and Thomas, after a dodgy run, scored. Bick converted. From the re-start Whitchurch pressed, and the forwards, coming down the field in rare style, enabled Howells to score. The kick failed. A good run by Pleece was the only incident of note to half-time. Score:—Romilly, one goal; Whitchurch, one try. Even play followed the re-start, but the homesters eventually settled down, Broad nearly scoring. Whitchurch pressed continually, and Norton, picking up, got over. The referee, however, ruled against the homesters, which was the cause of much comment. Final score: Cardiff Romillys, one goal Whitchurch, one try.

NEWPORT SECONDS V GLOUCESTER.

These are the players selected for Whitchurch home game against Cowbridge just before Christmas, 18th December 1897, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. COWBRIDGE.

At Whitchurch. Teams: Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. Thomas, P. Chard (captain), S. Evans, and J. Kent; half-backs, I. George and T. Howells; forwards, W. Salmon, W. Evans, W. Broad, P. Norton, A. Moss, G. Prout, E. Boyer, and T. J. Davies. Cowbridge: Back, R. L. Thomas; three-quarter backs, A. N. Other, G. Lewis (captain), A. Stockwood, and W. Fitzgerald; half-backs, E. Warren and A. Lewis; forwards, A. Tucker, W. Russell, A. L. Vaughan, J. Davies, W. Davies, J. Kitt, A. Kitt, and W. Mustoe.

Here's one that deserves to be out on public display, what do you think of this? Two matches on the same day, this says a lot about the club, its character and its playing resources, but, it also tells us a lot about the popularity and heritage of the game in and around the village, 27th December 1897 The South Wales daily News.

Burry Port, 3 tries : Neyland, 2 tries.

WHITCHURCH v. ST. ANDREW'S.—There was a large gate at Whitchurch to witness this game. The turf was somewhat affected by the frost, and both teams seemed slightly nervous. Smart work by the visiting backs put Whitchurch on the defensive. Rowlands relieved, but Dutton stole a pass intended for Thomas, and running strongly passed to Stone, who scored. The kick failed. No scoring took place in the second half, and the visitors won by three points.

WHITCHURCH v. MR T. DOBSON'S TEAM.—Whitchurch tackled the difficult task of playing twice the same day, and this match created considerable interest. Following the kick-out Solomon ran finely, and enabled Whitchurch to press. Good kicking by Huzzey removed the venue, and the ensuing play to half time was of an even character. G. Dobson restarted, and T. Thomas for the homesters put in a good sprint. Huzzey eventually secured, and dropped a fine goal and G. Dobson followed with a try, which was not converted. Final: T. Dobson's Team, 1 dropped goal 1 try; Whitchurch, nil.

CARMARTHEN v. NEATH BARBARIANS.—A pointless

After a difficult few years it now seems that the Whitchurch club have turned a corner and things are on the up. Player recruitment has taken place, performances have improved and the fixture schedule looks attractive. What follows bears testament to all the hard work put in.

1898

In the New Year it was a case of hit the ground running, 1st January 1898 The Evening Express, after a demanding Christmas Whitchurch next played Newport Extras at home, a game which seems to have had 'the gate' affected by a big Cardiff match.

WHITCHURCH V. NEWPORT EXTRAS			
The great attraction at Cardiff considerably affected the attendance. Broad commenced, and Thomas put in an effective return. Smart work by the home pack put Newport on the defensive, but by hard work they effectively cleared their lines, and removed play to the Whitchurch quarters, where a half went over with a soft try. The kick failed. Following the kick-off Kent and Evans by a smart dribble enabled the villagers to attack, but only a minor resulted, and half-time arrived, with the score—Newport Extras, 1 try; Whitchurch, 1 minor. Newport re-started and pressed, but Llewellyn by good work sent them back to half-way. The homesters, headed by Howells and Solomon, struggled hard to equalise, but only minors came to their lot. Eventually, after hard work, Llewellyn dashed over in the corner, the kick failing. The homesters continued to press, but failed to add to their score. Final score:—			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	6
Newport Extras	0	1	0
REMARKS.			
Play ruled chiefly amongst the forwards, and the home side showed a lack of training. Solomon, Taylor, and Chard worked hard for Whitchurch, and Llewellyn proved an efficient substitute for Rowlands. For Newport Hall and Morris were ever to the fore.			

Here's a tight game and it was against 'the League champions', a yardstick for the club and a result that would have provided a huge boost at the time. 8th January 1898 The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. ST. PETER'S.			
The visit of the League champions evoked considerable interest. St. Peter's commenced operations, and Howells returned well into touch. Whitchurch wheeled a scrum, and the Saints retaliated with a loose rush, which took play to the home 25. Good play by Llewellyn and T. Evans followed. A smart dribble by Norton and Moss enabled the latter to cross, but only a minor was allowed. Following the kick-out Bowker initiated a bout of passing, but the home tackling was keen, and play was removed to the centre. The Whitchurch pack, who were playing brilliantly, soon put the visitors on the defensive, but half-time arrived with no score. Following the re-start, the visitors made strenuous efforts to cross the home lines. Eventually Ryan dashed over in the corner, knocking down the touch flag in transit. A try was allowed, but the kick failed. The homesters re-started with vigour, but could not equalise. Final score:—			
St. Peter's	0	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	2
REMARKS.			
Whitchurch, shadowed by their characteristic ill-temper, had a hard time in being			

A little bit of additional information here is that Whitchurch were competing in the Cardiff and District Rugby Union Senior League, the table being printed on 19th January 1898 in The Evening Express, although it didn't seem to attract a great deal of importance to the club.

An interesting footnote here is that on 21st January 1898 Whitchurch were drawn against Romilly in the first round of the Mallett Cup.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION.						
SENIOR LEAGUE COMPETITION.						
The following shows the positions of the following clubs in the senior league competition up to and including Saturday last.—						
Club.	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts. pl'd.	To be re-
St. Peter's	8	6	1	1	13	0
St. Paul's	5	3	1	1	7	3
Roath	4	2	2	0	4	2
Canton	5	2	3	0	4	1
Mackintosh	6	1	3	2	4	0
Whitchurch	4	0	4	0	0	0
JUNIOR LEAGUE COMPETITION.						

League matches don't seem to appeal to Whitchurch, this game didn't go their way, 12th February 1898 The Evening Express.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT SENIOR LEAGUE.
WHITCHURCH V. ROMILLY.
 These teams met at the Sophia Gardens on ground in slippery condition. Whitchurch started and before very long the Romilly line was in danger. Eventually, however, the Romillys worked out of danger and assumed the aggressive, but they were drawn back, and Whitchurch went down the field with a formed rush, no good resulting. Nothing was scored up to half-time. The Romillys started the second half, and Whitchurch went down the field, and scored through Tom Harris, no goal resulting. The Romilly then worked up and attacked their opponents' line hotly, but were repulsed. They, however, were not to be denied, for Plowdon got the ball away from a line out and gave to Hart, the latter going over right under the posts. The point was majorised. Soon after time was called with the score:--Whitchurch: 2 tries, 2 minors; Romilly, 6 tries, 3 minors.

ST. PAUL'S V. MACKINTOSH.

The 19th February 1898 edition of The Evening Express published a short report on the Whitchurch win over Cardiff Romillys.

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF ROMILLYS.
 This was the third time for these teams to face each other in the fight for the Mallett Cup. The visitors commenced operations, and Johns fielding the ball smartly put the visitors on the defensive, and Teddy Evans worked his way over with a smart try. No goal resulted. Final score:--Whitchurch, two tries; Cardiff Romillys, nil.

REMARKS.
 The homesters excelled behind, but more combination is yet needed. Still there is a marked improvement on former displays. The visiting pack was superior, each man working hard, whereas it was evident that some of the homesters shirked the scrums.

Then, we get to hear that Whitchurch had reached the semi-finals of the Cardiff and District Senior Cup, playing at home against St Paul's. 25th February 1898 The Evening Express.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT SENIOR CUP.— SEMI-FINAL.
ST. PAUL'S V. WHITCHURCH.
 To be played at Whitchurch. St. Paul's: Back, J. Ruhr; three-quarter backs, J. Cavanagh, D. Collins, P. Loughlin, and P. O'Keefe; half-backs, D. Bellamy and J. Murphy; forwards, M. Leary (captain), T. M'Carthy, W. Sambers, J. Hennessey, J. Connell, L. Doyle, L. Moran, and T. Donovan. Break leaves Blue Anchor Hotel at two p.m., sharp.

Ebbw Vale Seconds v. Argoed.—To be played in

This is how they got on, 26th February 1898, The Evening Express.....

WHITCHURCH V. ST. PAUL'S.
 There was a large crowd present to witness this contest. The visitors commenced, and the home pack soon took play to the Irishmen's territory. A fine run by Teddy Evans put the visitors strictly on the defensive, but Baker averted the disaster by a fine defence and hard work. The visiting eight cleared their lines, but the homesters retaliated with a wheel, from which Kent secured, and put Llewellyn over at the corner. The kick failed. Following the kick-out, play continued of an even character to half-time, when the score read:--Whitchurch, one try; St. Paul's, nil. Boyer re-started, and play settled in the home half, and long kicking gave the visitors two minors, but Salmon and Oldfield, by a combined effort, soon cleared their line, and Kent had hard lines in not scoring. The visitors, however, kept up a ne defence, and repeatedly nullified the brilliant onslaughts of the home pack. Final score:--Whitchurch, one try; St. Paul's, nil.

REMARKS.
 A little more combination behind will make the homesters hard to beat. Thomas was decidedly off but Kent, Boyer, and Oldfield were ever to the fore.

On 4th March 1898 The Evening Express printed the team for the home fixture against Mackintosh

Anchor, at 2.30 sharp.
Whitchurch v. Cardiff Mackintosh.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, Rowlands; three-quarter backs, Chard (captain), John, Thomas, and Llewellyn; half-backs, Kent, and E. Evans; forwards, Salman, W. Evans, Taylor, Phillips, Norton, Oldfield, Boyer and Harris.
Cogan Crescents v. Cardiff Belmonts.—At

Meanwhile they had a home fixture against St Paul's. The Evening Express 5th March 1898

WHITCHURCH V. ST. PAUL'S.

St. Paul's having objected to Tom John, late of Pontypridd, Whitchurch were ordered to meet them again in the semi-final for the Mallett Cup. In the last contest victory rested with the villagers by a solitary try. Doyle started operations for St. Paul's. Even play ensued. A neat kick by Evans took play to the Saints' 25, but they returned with a dribble. J. Evans, with a smart run, enabled the moesters to attack. Thomas kicked well, and Peter Chard scored a brilliant try, which was not converted. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, one try; St. Paul's, nil.
Final score:—Whitchurch, one try; St. Paul's, one try.

SWANSEA SECONDS V. CARDIFF SECONDS.

On 18th March 1898, The Evening Express published the team selections for the Whitchurch vs Old Monktonians fixture.

Whitchurch v. Old Monktonians.—To be played at Whitchurch. Teams:—Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Chard (captain), T. Thomas, T. John, and J. Chard; half-backs, E. Evans and J. Kent; forwards, W. Salmon, P. Norton, W. Evans, A. Moss, V. Taylor, W. Oldfield, S. Phillips, and E. Boyer; reserve, T. Harris. Old Monktonians: Back, A. R. Smith; three-quarter backs, L. Winks, R. M. Elliott, G. Common, and R. Lundie; half-backs, L. Allan and C. Kestel; forwards, W. Robertson, G. Jenkins, F. Barter, W. Williams, E. W. Williams, E. Male, A. J. Clarke, and S. O. Jenkins. Kick-off at 3.30 sharp. Break leaves North-road Corner at 2.45 p.m.

On 19th March 1898 The Evening Express published a report on the home game against Old Monktonians

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.

Played at Whitchurch, in wet weather, but on a good turf. Norton commenced, and from the kick-out the visitors, headed by Clarke, became dangerous, but Chard saved in the nick of time. Salman made a fine opening, but Chard elected to kick, and a good chance was lost. Following the re-start, the home forwards played in fine style, but only three minors fell to their lot. Nothing further of note occurred to the call of time, when the score read:—Whitchurch, three minors; Old Monktonians, nil.

REMARKS.

The game was a forward one throughout, and in this department the homesters excelled, but the visitors defence was keen, and this prevented a score. For the Monks Clarke was ever to the fore.

EBBW VALE V. BARRY.

In the summer, on 18th July 1898 The South Wales Echo published a brief account of the Whitchurch AGM. Some of the names are well known and it is believed that Mr. G. Bennette was the landlord of The Fox and Hounds at that time and that home pitch for Whitchurch was still behind the pub.

We'll come across Tom Dobson again very soon.....

Here's one for record books, almost an entire Whitchurch player squad named. 3rd September 1898 The South Wales Daily News. All prepared for a trial match for the Whitchurch team selections.

The trial match was 'none too soon', on 7th September 1898 The South Wales Daily News gave an update on the next challenge for Whitchurch, a prestigious, gala, 'practice' match against a Cardiff team picked by Mr Tom Dobson, the Cardiff vice captain.

Still room for more fixtures, 8th September 1898 The South Wales Echo.

cations to Mr Williams, of Penydarren.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the above club, which was held at the Fox and Hounds, Whitchurch, on Saturday. Mr W. Evans presided, and was supported by the veteran International, Mr Tom Dobson. The treasurer's report showed a slight adverse balance, but this, it is anticipated, will soon be cleared off. The following officers were elected:—Captain, Mr W. Salmon; hon. treasurer, Mr G. Bennett; hon. secretary, Mr D. Davies. Mr Salmon selected Mr D. Rowlands as his vice, and it is anticipated that the captain's experience gained at Penygraig will be used to the best advantage of the club. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman and to Mr Dobson for his presence. The latter gentleman responded with a practical speech as to how to obtain success in the football world.

Hagson.

WHITCHURCH.

A trial match will be played at Whitchurch today, the teams for which will be:—*First XV*: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. John, P. Blake, P. Chard, and D. Llewellyn; half-backs, J. Kent and E. Evans; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), P. Norton, T. Harris, W. Broad, W. Evans, S. Phillips, E. Boyer, and V. Taylor. *Next XVIII*. (selected from): Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. Williams, T. Llewellyn, Mark Hill, E. Leaves, S. Evans, and J. Llewellyn; half-backs, S. Evans and B. Nicholas; forwards, C. Samuel (captain), W. Amos, J. Stephens, T. Adams, J. Evans, F. Morgan, A. Morgan, W. H. Thomas, W. J. Winter, G. Clements, D. Samuel, and C. Ward.

EBBW VALE ASSOCIATION CLUB.
The annual meeting of the club...

FOOTBALL.

PRACTICE AT WHITCHURCH.

On Saturday next Mr Tom Dobson (Cardiff's vice-captain) is taking a strong fifteen of Cardiffians to meet eighteen of Whitchurch. The match is looked upon as a trial of the metal of which the Cardiff team is likely to be composed for the ensuing season, and the villagers are turning out a strong contingent, and a good game is anticipated. The Whitchurch Amateur Brass Band will play selections during the evening, and the president of the Whitchurch F.C. (Councillor J. H. Cory, J.P.) will set the ball a-rolling.

Dobson's XV.—Back, T. J. Thomas; three-quarter backs, V. Huzzey, Gwyn Nicholls, J. Williams, and A. Ricketts; half-backs, J. Driscoll and J. Heaven; forwards, T. Dobson, G. Dobson, J. Blake, F. Cornish, McIntyre, T. Davies, Spackman, and D. W. Hughes.

PENARTH FOOTBALL CLUB.
A practice game will take place on Saturday. Sep-

night.

WHITCHURCH have Sept. 17th, 24th, November 5th, 19th, January 21st open for good teams. Home and home preferred.—Davies, Sec. 279c

CARDIFF FOOTBALL CLUB.—Practice matches, Cardiff Arms Park, Saturday, September 17th. All players wishing to take part in the above are requested to forward their names and position on-field

We can't ignore the Cardiff match, this is how it went according to The South Wales Daily News, 12th September 1898, as you might have expected, but, Cardiff not exactly having their own way.

The visiting team... got into a good understanding with each other, but the two centres played very well. The two full-backs acquitted themselves admirably.

WHITCHURCH v TOM DOBSON'S XV.
A PIPE-OPENER FOR THE CARDIFFIANS.

Whitchurch was en fete this afternoon on the occasion of the visit of most of the Cardiff team, and there was a large attendance at the Athletic Grounds to witness the contest. Dobson's men lined out minus Driscoll, who, it appears, has gone to Hull. Councillor J. H. Cory set the ball a-rolling a few minutes after time, and Whitchurch, by a loose rush, soon commenced to press, and John made a futile attempt to drop a goal. Cardiff relieved by smart passing initiated by Bush, but Huzzey was well backed, and the danger was averted, a minor only resulting. Following the kick-out Kent made a smart run, but held too long. Cardiff, however, did not permit the villagers to remain in their territory long, and Williams, playing at half with the younger Bush, after a rush by his backs, scored, and Huzzey converted. Following the kick Salmon made several grand shots at goal, and the homesters, with the wind in their favour, could only register a few minors.

	G. T. M.
Dobson's XV.	1 0 0
Whitchurch.....	0 0 3

The band having played a selection during the interval, Salmon restarted for the homesters, and by hard work the Village boys took play to the Cardiffians' quarters. Nicholls however made his mark and kicked finely, and Cornish following up smartly soon reversed the order of things. Play settled down at halfway and continued even for some time. Then Whitchurch pressed strongly, Tom John making his second ineffective attempt at a drop goal. The homesters continued to play hard, and at last their efforts were rewarded by D. Llewellyn scoring a neat try at the corner. Salmon's shot at goal fell short. Huzzey restarted, and Dobson's men infused considerable vigour into their play, with the result that McIntyre scored a well-earned try, which Huzzey converted. Cardiff continued to hold the upper hand, and just on time Bush scored after a bout of passing, Huzzey again doing the needful.

	G. T. M.
Dobson's XV.	3 0 0
Whitchurch.....	0 1 3

The teams were :-
Dobson's XV.—Back, H. B. Winfield; three-quarter backs, V. Huzzey, G. Nicholls, Jones, and Williams; half-backs, Bush and Williams; forwards, T. Dobson, G. Dobson, F. Cornish, H. Hughes, Spackman, McIntyre, and J. Blake.
Whitchurch—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. John, I. Llewellyn, P. Chard, I. Adams, and D. Llewellyn; half-backs, J. Kent and E. Evans; forwards, W. Broad, W. Evans, W. Salmon (capt.), W. Amos, F. Morgan, V. Taylor, S. Milligan, T. Harris, E. Boyer, and P. Norton.

REMARKS.
It was easy to observe the distinction between the rival teams. Dobson's men played a smart combined game, although they will need a lot of brushing up before the season commences in earnest. They were ably led by Dobson, the day's captain, and Nicholls and Huzzey put in some smart work behind. Cornish and G. Dobson showed fine form. For Whitchurch Salmon, Kent, and Tom John were the pick. Rowland's mishap which let in McIntyre marred an otherwise good performance. The villagers want badly to learn the art of combination, when they will make a warm lot. It was really only regarded as a pipe opener for the Cardiffians, and it was a satisfactory feature in view of Driscoll's fitting and possible other emergencies to find that "Jimmy" Williams at half and Ricketts in the centre showed glimpses of real promise.

STANLEY v XV OF LEAGUE

The sports columnist of The Evening Express provided an update on the fortunes of local rugby clubs including that of Whitchurch, 10th September 1898

thereabouts at the finish.
WHITCHURCH.
 Whitchurch, one of the most promising of last year's league teams, are now going stronger than ever, and may be expected to give their opponents, among which they number some of the big teams of the Monmouthshire valleys, some splendid games.
ROATH.
 The Roathites, who have always given some

On 19th September 1898 The South Wales Daily News published this report on an away game against Ebbw Vale

EBBW VALE v WHITCHURCH.
 Whitchurch visited Ebbw Vale, and played the newly-formed Crusaders before a fair gate. The visitors played several of their seconds. Boyer commenced, and Beynon returned. Whitchurch, pressed by the Valians, headed by Watkins, relieved. Even play continued until half-time arrived, with the scoring sheet clean. Give-and-take play followed the restart. Whitchurch eventually pressed, Tom Llewellyn dropping a smart goal just before time.
 Final Score— G. T. M.
 Whitchurch..... *1 0 0
 Ebbw Vale 0 0 0
 *Dropped.
ABERGAVENNY v PILL HARRIERS.

Worthy of note, on 22nd September 1898 The South Wales Echo published a report on a 'WRU' meeting which stated "The following clubs were admitted into the Union, viz, Tenby Swifts, Abergavenny United, Cardiff District Union, Pilgwenly Harriers and Whitchurch".

On 24th September 1898 The Evening Express also made note of the affiliation to the Welsh Football Union

Whitchurch have now been affiliated to the Welsh Football Union, and it is to be hoped that they will herald their admission into that famous body by working well and heartily together. They have the making of a smart team, and have every advantage for progressing. They play Treorky to-day, and the result will be watched with interest in the tin-plate village.
 The Welsh Kennel Club are supporting the

On 30th September 1898 The Evening Express published the team selections for the Whitchurch home game against Old Monktonians (right), while Whitchurch Reserves were also scheduled for a home game against Penarth United (below).

Whitchurch A v Penarth United.—To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch A: Back, Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. Llewellyn, J. Llewellyn, Samuel, and Williams; half-backs, Leaves and D. Samuel; forwards, Winter, Thompson, Stephens, A. Leaves, Jarvis, Brown, Wild, and Amos. Reserves, Collins, Blakemore, and D. Llewellyn.
 Riverside v. Pentyrch.—To be played at the Jubilee Park. Riverside: Back, Reginald; three-

OLD MONKTONIANS V. WHITCHURCH.
 To be played at Whitchurch. Break leaves corner of North-road at 2.45 p.m. sharp. Old Monktonians: Back, A. R. Smith; three-quarter backs, E. N. Lewis, A. G. Cave, T. Cross, and N. James; half-backs, J. George and R. Lundie; forwards, G. W. Jenkins (vice-captain), G. O. Common, E. W. Williams, H. Coppock, G. K. Ovenden, H. Bradford, W. Scott, and F. R. Jones. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. John, J. Harris, P. Chard, and P. Blake; half-backs, J. Kent and E. Evans; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), W. Evans, W. Broad, V. Taylor, T. Harris, E. Boyer, P. Norton, and S. Phillips. Referee, Mr. L. Allan. Kick-off at 3.30 p.m. sharp.
ROATH V. CANTON

On 1st October 1898 the sports columnist of The Glamorgan Free Press gave an early season opinion on the club's chances for the season....

win their matches with Pontyclun (League), Tondu, and Whitchurch, evidently shows good form and their performance this season so far will compare most favourably with any opening matches in previous seasons. They have still to improve for future engagements, and with a little polishing in the rear division will surely make things hum. The League champions made

The Evening Express have changed their reporting format providing a more detailed account of matches and offering a 'summary' on the match. 8th October 1898, a Whitchurch home game against Mackintosh.

Also commenting on the issues of previous seasons: "Hitherto the prospects of the Whitchurch Club have been ruined by inward dissensions but this season a spirit of brotherhood and enthusiasm obtains".

The South Wales Daily News opted to offer an opinion on Mackintosh, 10th October 1898 (below)

The game at Whitchurch was rather one-sided, the homesters, as will be seen, winning by 17 points to nil, but nevertheless the Mackintosh have good material, and should develop as the season goes on. The efforts at passing on both sides were rather crude, but the homesters were superior in all departments. They have the making of a good team, but they should get the idea of Welsh play more at heart. A little more of the short and sharp passing amongst the backs will greatly improve their reputation.

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF MACKINTOSH.			
Played at Whitchurch. Salman started operations, and play was at once taken to the visitors' quarters. From a scrum Kent dashed over in a tricky fashion, Salman failing at goal. Even play ensued, the homesters playing fourteen men, Ivor Llewellyn being injured. The villagers continued to hold the upper hand, and a smart dribble by the half-backs enabled Boyes to score, the kick failing.			
Half-time score:—			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	2	0
Mackintosh	0	0	0
ad WHITCHURCH			
Attewell re-commenced operations, and play continued even for some time. The visitors being penalised, Chard dropped a smart goal. From a rush Broad scored, the place kick failing. Following the kick out a good bout of passing put Tom John in, Salmon converting. The Villagers continued to press, but failed to score. Final score:—			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	*2	3	0
Cardiff Mackintosh	0	0	0
* One converted and one penalty.			
REMARKS.			
The home side had no difficulty in winning. They were superior all round, although the slight accident to Ivor Llewellyn compelled them to play fourteen men. More combination behind, however, is badly needed.			
CARDIFF A V NEATH A			

The Evening Express really went for it on 15th October 1898, the game against Cowbridge went our way and in later editions more coverage was given to the club by the sports columnist providing various updates on the club. One being the signing of a new player that had been with Cardiff and another, a nice features of a portrait of captains of various Cardiff clubs, among them being the Whitchurch captain W. Salmon.

(ref below)

WHITCHURCH V. COWBRIDGE.

Played at Whitchurch. Tucker commenced, and play was taken to the visitors' line by Harris. Evans, however, saved, and play settled down in the centre. Ragged play on both sides prevented a score, but Blake eventually scored for the homesters. Salman failing at goal. Tucker re-started, but the play on both sides lacked combination. A brilliant effort by Chislett only ended in a minor. When half-time arrived the score read:—Whitchurch, 1 try; Cowbridge, nil. Salman re-started and the homesters, by loose play, took play to the Cowbridge quarters, where Boyer nearly scored. The visitors, however, woke up, and removed play to the home line. Good play by the home forwards removed the venue, and Blake by a smart kick took play to the visitors' line. Chislett twice nearly got over, and Phillips was tackled on the line. Cowbridge, however, defended finely. Final score:—

	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	7
Cowbridge	0	0	0

REMARKS.
The village boys thoroughly deserved to win.

teams.

Whitchurch have a strong reserve string. Up to the present they have defeated all their opponents—Bedwas, Penarth United, and St. Peters A—scoring 29 points to nothing.

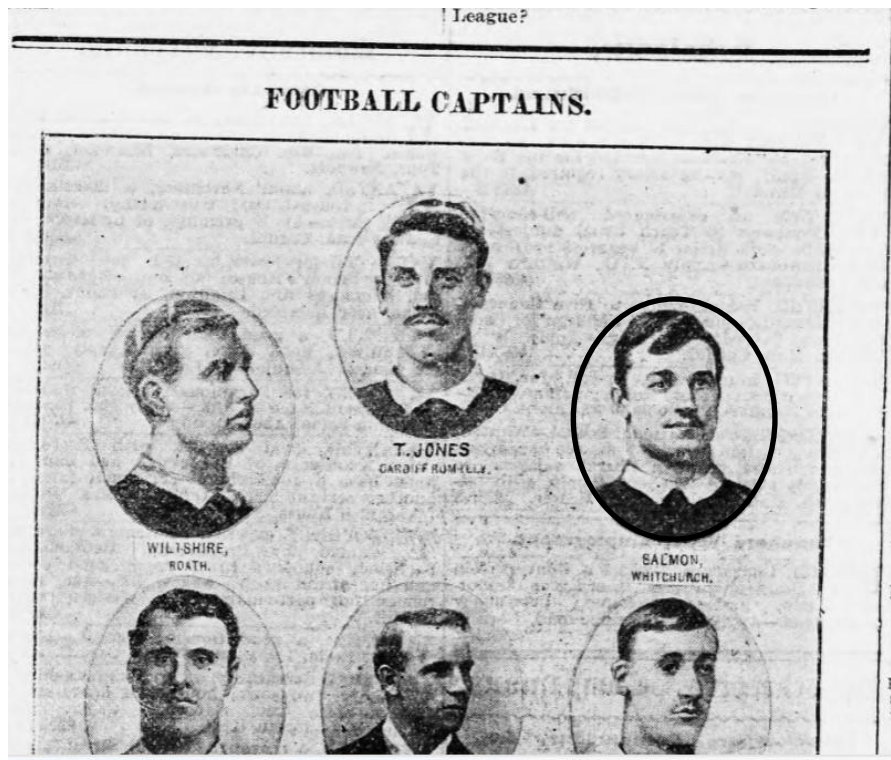
Whitchurch pride themselves in having the best local pack of forwards. It is a pity their backs do not practice more of the handling code, and indulge less in kicking. This would considerably encourage the men of the front rank.

It is the general opinion in Swansea that the local Soccer team is not so good as last

ever, multiplying rapidly.

D. Chislett—who appears to have been overlooked altogether by the Cardiff Committee—to-day dons the jersey for Whitchurch. He will be a great acquisition to the villagers three-quarter line.

In Reynolds, the second string's custodian



On 22nd October 1898 The Evening Express showed the result of a Whitchurch vs Ebbw Vale match but difficult to tell whether it was home or away.

WHITCHURCH V. PONTYCLUN.

This match took place at Pontyclun in very wet weather and before a fair number of spectators. Whitchurch kicked off well into the home 25. The ball was well returned. Play was for some time concentrated in midfield, until from a scrum White got possession and nearly got over the line before he was floored. A bout of good passing again saw Pontyclun to advantage. Half-time score:—Pontyclun, nil; Whitchurch, nil.

Final score:—

	G.	T.	M.
Pontyclun	0	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

—

PONTYCLUN V. WHITCHURCH

On 31st October 1898 The South Wales Daily News published this account on the Whitchurch home game against St Andrew's, both sides coming out of it with equal credit.

WHITCHURCH v ST ANDREW'S.

These old rivals met at Whitchurch before a good gate. The homesters started and at once pressed. Play however was removed by smart work on the part of the visiting pack. The homesters soon returned to the attack, but the visitors tackled finely and prevented the Villagers crossing, only a minor being obtained.

The homesters restarted and play was of a ding-dong character. Tom Harris made a fine effort, but a minor only resulted. St. Andrew's soon removed the venue, and Tom John only saved just in time. Fine play by the visitors' pack kept the homesters penned in their quarters, but relief was soon obtained by smart work on the part of the villagers. Tom John made a fine opening, but Williams failed to take. A loose rush by the Saints removed the venue, and even play ensued to the call of time.

The result is a fair indication of the play, as the sides were well balanced. The home forwards showed lack of training, which practically lost them the match, as they were not able to use their weight to advantage.

Final Score—

	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch.....	0	0	2
St. Andrew's	0	0	1

SWANSEA 2ND v NEATH 2ND.

On 1st November 1898 The South Wales Echo showed the result of the Radyr Crescents vs Whitchurch Juniors match "played at the Junction field and after a very fast and even game resulted in a draw".

With a depleted team Whitchurch played well against Old Monktonians, 14th November 1898
The South Wales Daily News

their sterling play. The ball was too greasy to bring off any passing.

WHITCHURCH v OLD MONKTONIANS.

At Whitchurch before a fair attendance. Jenkins commenced for the visitors, and Boothby made a smart return. Smart work by Winks enabled the visitors to attack, but the homesters pulled together and invaded the visitors' quarters. Good play by each side made things continue even, but Rowlands enabled the Villegars to attack.

Half-time Score—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	.....	0	0	2
Old Monktonians	.....	0	0	0

Salmon recommenced operations, and by smart work the homesters continued the attack. The good defence of Lundie and Treharne evaded disaster, and the homesters had to be content with another minor. Good work by Jenkins enabled the Monks to press, but Boothby was at home and saved coolly. Play continued to be of a ding-dong character. Jim Stephens crossed for the homesters, but lost the ball. The villagers continued to press, Blake and Tom Williams each having distinctly hard lines.

Final Score—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	.....	0	0	4
Monktonian s	.....	0	0	0

REMARKS.

The visitors were rather fortunate to evade defeat, but led by Jenkins they played well to a man. For the homesters great praise is due. They played about half a dozen second men, but they worked like trojans, the half-back play of Salmon and Rowlands being a treat. They were especially conspicuous. The others played exceedingly well, and victory should have been their lot.

CILFYNYDD v TYLORSTOWN.

On 18th November 1898 The Evening Express published the 2nd team selections for a Whitchurch vs Canton Harlequins match. The Llandaff Yard team selection above is also included, 'for reference'.
The Whitchurch team for the away match at Cwmbran was also shown (below)

WHITCHURCH V. CWMBRAN.
At Cwmbran. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. John, P. Blake, and T. L. Williams; half-backs, W. Salmon (captain) and D. Rowlands; forwards, T. Harris, Woldfield, Woldfield, W. Evans, E. Boyer, S. Phillips, A. Leaves, and W. Amos.

and F. Williamson.

Llandaff Yard v. St. German's.—To be played at Llandaff. Llandaff Yard: Back, A. Alden; three-quarter backs, S. Evans, T. Llewellyn, F. Seaman, and A. Evans; halfbacks, J. Chard and D. Evans; forwards, D. Seaman, A. Moss, W. Haltane, R. Richards, W. Lister, W. Davies, T. Morgan, and W. Legge. Kick-off 3.45 p.m.

Whitchurch Reserves v. Canton Harlequins.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch Reserves: Back, H. Brown; three-quarter backs, C. Samuel (captain), W. Davey, W. Jarvis, and J. Harris; half-backs, E. Leaves and D. Samuel; forwards, W. Winter, T. Thompson, T. Hedges, G. Clements, W. Blakemore, B. Wiles, T. Wiles, and Chappell.

Riverside Seconds v. Cathays Windsors.—At

The Whitchurch team for the home game against St Andrew's was published in The Evening Express on 25th November 1898 (right) and reserves at Penarth (below)...

Whitchurch Reserves v. Penarth United.—At Penarth. Whitchurch Reserves: Back, Blakemore; three-quarter backs, Samuel (captain), Leaves, Wills, and Harris; half-backs, D. Samuel and Williams; forwards, Chapple, Jarvis, A. Leaves, Wills, Hedges, Collins, Clements, and Payne. Reserve, E. Lloyd.

Canton Second v. Barry Dock Crusaders.—At

ST ANDREW'S V. WHITCHURCH.

At Whitchurch. St. Andrew's: Back, W. Thomas; three-quarter backs, F. Stockden, T. W. Cooper, L. W. Sutton, and W. Stockden; half-backs, H. Fitzgerald and G. Stevens; forwards Edwards, Summerhayes, Wills, Rogers, Condon, Powell, Sullivan, Sutton, and Williams. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, P. Blake, T. John, W. Davey, and T. L. Williams; half-backs, W. Salmon (captain) and D. Rowlands; forwards, F. Harris, W. Oldfield, E. Boyer, W. Winter, W. Amos, T. Thompson, W. Evans, and J. Stephens. St. Andrew's break leaves the Woodville Hotel at 2.50 sharp.

On 2nd December 1898 The Evening Express published the Whitchurch team selections for the away game at Cowbridge and the 2nds home to Pentyrch

WHITCHURCH V. COWBRIDGE.
At Cowbridge. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Blake, W. Davey, T. L. Williams, and another; half-backs, W. Salmon (captain) and J. Stephens; forwards, T. Harris, E. Boyer, W. Evans, W. Oldfield, P. Norton, V. Taylor, W. Nicholls, and W. Amos.

ROATH V. CAERPHILLY.

It was a good day out at Cowbridge, Whitchurch just getting the edge, 3rd December 1898 The Evening Express

Whitchurch Reserves v. Pentyrch.—To be played at Whitchurch. Whitchurch Reserves: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, C. Samuel (captain), E. Leavers, W. Jarvis, and J. Harris; half-backs, D. Samuel and J. Williams; forwards, T. Hedges, W. Winter, A. Leavers, Payne, B. Miles, T. Thompson, J. Collins, Chappell, G. Clements, and W. J. Blakemore.

Old Monktonians v. Penarth A.—To be played at Penarth. Train leaves Great Western Rail-

Final result:—A draw; no score on either side.

WHITCHURCH V. COWBRIDGE.
At Cowbridge, before a fair crowd, and on very slippery turf. The homseters played well, and by forward work pressed. Brilliant work by Rowlands, however, prevented them scoring. Following the re-start the visitors played up, and repeatedly carried the scrums. The ball was too slippery to handle, and this prevented their scoring, minors only falling to their lot. Final score:—Whitchurch, three minors; Cowbridge, one minor.

MERTHYR ALEXANDRAS V. BELLE VUE

The Whitchurch 2nd's team for an away game at Cathays was printed in The Evening Express, 9th December 1898. Notice also the venue for another match at the bottom of this cutting. Evidently the Whitchurch ground was also conveniently available for other teams, in this case it seems to be a 'works do'.

Whitchurch Reserves v. Cathays United.—To be played at Cathays. Whitchurch Reserves: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, C. Samuel (captain), W. Davey, E. Leavers, and D. Llewellyn; half-backs, D. Samuel and J. Williams; forwards, T. Thompson, W. Jarvis, J. Collins, Chappell, and Payne. United: Back, E. Jones; three-quarter backs, W. Pelly, R. David, C. Viney, and W. Pullen; half-backs, A. Forde and W. Travers; forwards, F. Hookway (captain), N. Rumbelow, R. Fisher, N. Power, W. Wellings, J. Torrington, W. Atkins, and Miles; reserves, G. Downs and S. Symonds. Meet at Gower Hotel at 2.30 p.m.

Great Western Goods Invoicers v. Rest of Staff.—To be played at Whitchurch. Invoicers:

Another boost to the club was this performance against a travelling Chepstow St Mary's team, 12th December 1898 The South Wales Daily News.

Cwmearn 0 0 3

WHITCHURCH v CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.
At Whitchurch. The visitors have a good reputation, having suffered defeat but once. A splendidly contested game, both sides contributing smart play. The result is a fair indication of the play, although the homesters in the first half had very hard lines, Salmon's kick striking the crossbar, while Llewellyn too had equally hard lines. Referee, Mr J. H. Bowen, Welsh Football Union.

Final Score—		G. T. M.
Whitchurch	*1 0 5	
Chepstow	0 1 1	

*Penalty.

The week before Christmas Whitchurch were at home to Pontypridd 'A', earning a narrow win, 17th December 1898 The Evening Express (right)

WHITCHURCH v PENARTH A.

At Whitchurch. Soloman kicked off for Whitchurch, who soon invaded the visitors' territory. Good dribbling by Penarth carried the ball to the homesters' lines. Whitchurch soon removed the play, Boyer eventually scoring. The kick failed. Rowlands attempted a drop goal, but failed, a minor resulting.

Half-time Score—		G. T. M.
Whitchurch	0	1 1
Penarth	0	0 0

Stranaghan restarted for the visitors, and play was carried into midfield. The homesters soon pressed, but the visitors by some good play carried the ball to half-way. Whitchurch soon carried the game back to the visitors' 25. Shad Phillips and Harris both having hard lines in not scoring. The visitors, by the good passing of their backs, removed the play to half-way for a short time only. Whitchurch continued to press, and Norton scored. Penarth, from the kick-out, carried the play into the homesters' territory, Rowlands on several occasions saving grandly. Time was called with play in mid-field.

Final Score—		G. T. M.
Whitchurch	0	2 1
Penarth	0	0 0

REMARKS.

Rowlands played a grand game at full back for the homesters, whose forwards were by far the superior lot. Penarth, playing fourteen men, made a fairly good show.

BARRY v CARDIFF RESERVES

Finally, at the end of the year, a match played away at Risca, Whitchurch coming away with a good win, 31st December 1898 The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. PONTYPRIDD A.

At Whitchurch, in drizzling weather, and before a meagre attendance. Casey commenced, and by combined play the Rhondda men worked into the home quarters. The homesters, however, soon relieved. Tom Williams kicking well into touch. Dashing play by the home eight was the means of enabling them to press, but Cavanagh and Wride defended soundly, and prevented a score. Half-time was sounded, with the score: Whitchurch, two minors; Pontypridd A, nil. The home captain re-started, and the Valley men came away with a rush. Rowlands, however, was at home, and repelled the invaders. Blake ran well down into the visitors' quarters, and Nicholls nearly forced his way through the visitors' defence, but was held up on the line. Whitchurch continued to attack, but the defence was sound, and Wride eventually headed a dribble which brought the visitors much-needed relief. A grand run by Rowlands soon renewed the attack, and Jack Harris got over with a smart try, which Salman converted. The homesters continued to hold the upper hand, but could make no further score.

Final score:—		G. T. M.
Whitchurch	1	0 3
Pontypridd A	0	0 1

REMARKS.

The visitors were no soft nut to crack, but the homesters should have considerably increased their score. The ball, however, was very greasy, which prevented back play.

CWMGARN V. CRUMLIN

In a Boxing Day edition, 26th December 1898 The South Wales Daily News published this report (left) on a Whitchurch home win against 14 man Penarth 'A'.

WHITCHURCH V. RISCA.

Played at Risca, before a good crowd. Gardner started operations, and Clisset, by a smart run, scored for Whitchurch. Salman falling at goal. Grand play by Rowlands enabled Stephens to pass to Tom Williams, who registered the visitors' second try, no goal resulting. Resuming, Risca forced their way over, a fine shot at goal falling short. Final score:—Whitchurch, two tries; Risca, one try.

Well what a year that was, a complete turnaround in fortunes for the club, good performances, a few prestigious fixtures and a very demanding number of matches, all fulfilled. What lies ahead?.....

1899

The first match in the New Year was this away win at Risca, 2nd January 1899, The South Wales Daily News.

Cardiff Romilly	0	0	2
WHITCHURCH v RISCA.			
Played at Risca before a good crowd. Gardner started operations, and Chislet by a smart run scored for Whitchurch, Salmon failing at the goal. Grand play by Rowlands enabled Stephens to pass to Tom Williams, who registered the visitors' second try, no goal resulting. Resuming, Risca forced their way over, a fine shot at goal falling short.			
Final Score--			
Whitchurch	0	2	0
Risca	2	1	0
MERTHYR v MOUNTAIN ASH 2ND.			

On the 13th January 1899 The Evening Express published this team selection for a home match against Cardiff Reserves

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF RESERVES.	
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. John, T. Llewellyn, T. Williams, and P. Blake; half-backs, D. Chislett and E. Evans; forwards (selected from) W. Salmon (captain), W. Broad, P. Norton, J. Stephens, E. Bowyer, W. Amos, W. Nicholls, T. Harris, and V. Taylor.	
CARDIFF VILLA V. ST. PAUL'S.	
To be played at the Sophia Gardens. Villa	

On 20th January 1899 The Evening Express published the teams selected for the Whitchurch home game against Penylan

WHITCHURCH V. PENYLAN.	
At Whitchurch. Teams:—Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Blake, T. John, T. Llewellyn, and T. Williams; half-backs, E. Evans and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), Broad, Boyer, Stephens, P. Norton, W. Amos, V. Taylor, and W. Nicholls. Penylan: Back, W. J. Winfield; three-quarter backs, C. Thomas, W. D. Thomas, W. Richards, and H. Davies (captain); half-backs, H. Hyde and E. Dutton; forwards, D. Owen, D. L. Evans, R. J. Auckland, E. Harding, F. S. Coppock, F. Baker, R. Harvey, and J. Niblett. Kick-off at 3.15 p.m.	
Be played at the Sophia Gardens	

On 21st January 1899 the sports columnist of The Evening Express paid a compliment to one of the Whitchurch players as well as the pitch.

Rowlands, the Whitchurch back, is a very smart player, and more should be heard of him. He is, however, somewhat defective in strength of kicking, but he knows the game, and his direction is faultless.
The Whitchurch ground, after a week or more of heavy rain, was in grand condition last Saturday. It is, perhaps, the driest ground within thirty miles of Cardiff, for the players were at no disadvantage whatever, and it was not even slippery.
The members of the Welsh Football Union Committee have a splendid memory. Fancy

It didn't stop there either, the performance against Cardiff also came in for praise.

have a "lifer."
Whitchurch folks are nearly mad with delight at their team's display against the so far invincible Cardiff Reserves. They are certainly entitled to shake hands with themselves, for seven points' licking from the Reserves is no disgrace to a team which last year was classed amongst the locals.
R. T. Skrimshire, the Newport and Welsh

On 27th January 1899 The Evening Express published the team selection for the next game against Mackintosh.

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF MACKINTOSH.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. Williams, T. John, T. Llewellyn, and P. Blake; half-backs, E. Evans and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), W. Amos, W. Broad, J. Stephens, V. Taylor, T. Harris, P. Norton, and W. Nicholls.

Cardiff Crescents v. Sydenhams'.--At Sophia Gardens. Crescents: Back, D. Watkins (cap-

A good result followed and an equally good report was found, 28th January 1899 The Evening Express

A. nil.

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF MACKINTOSH.
At Whitchurch, before a fair attendance. Salmon commenced, and the Macs at once pressed. Good play by Llewellyn enabled the homesters to clear, and eventually the villagers worked up to the Cardiff lines. Chislett and Williams each had hard lines. The Mackintosh, however, defended well, and kept their lines intact. Half-time arrived with each side having registered only a few minors. The visitors re-started, and by a loose forward rush put Whitchurch on the defensive. John relieved, and, for obstruction, the visitors were penalised. Tom Llewellyn dropped a fine goal from near the half-way line. From the re-start the Mackintosh men started passing. The resolute defence of the villagers alone prevented a score. The home forwards now gained possession in the scrums, and the halves started neat bouts of passing. Williams, Blake, and John each having hard lines. The final, however, arrived without further score:—

Whitchurch, one penalty goal and three minors; Cardiff Mackintosh, three minors.

REMARKS.
The game was fast, considering the state of the turf. Forward, the visitors held their own against the heavier home pack. Behind the scrum things were very even. The homesters had to play a portion of the game with fourteen men, one of the forwards being injured.

Before we go any further, it's worth mentioning, this little jewel, another local player 'made good'. On this occasion J. Blake having been picked up by Cardiff, was now selected to play for Wales against England. 7th January 1899
The Evening Express.

J. BLAKE (Cardiff) is as well worth his place as any forward in the team. He is 25 years old, 5ft. 11in. in height, and scales 13st. 4lb. Blackweir and Whitchurch, junior teams in the Cardiff neighbourhood, had his services for a couple of seasons, and, after playing for the Cardiff Reserves, his transition to the ranks of the first was very rapid. His weight makes him invaluable in the scrummage, but, in addition, he is fast in following up, dribbles well, and does his share generally in the loose. With all his weight and height, he brings off good movements at the line-out, and always pulls down anyone he lays his hands on.
BRYCE (Aberavon), with Daniell and



Blake was also picked to play against Ireland, this display of the Welsh team being shown in The Evening Express on 18th March 1899 (J. Blake – No.9)



6th February 1899 the team to play Tondy away was published in The Evening Express

at two o'clock.

WHITCHURCH V. TONDU.
At Tondy. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. John, T. Llewellyn, T. Williams, and J. Harris; half-backs, D. Chislett and E. Evans; forwards, W. Salman (captain), W. Broad, W. Evans, E. Boyer, T. Harris, W. Amos, W. Nicholls, and P. Norton.

Cathays Stars v. Cathays Windsors.—At Roath Park. Stars: Back, Caple; three-quarter backs,

The trials and tribulations of the governing body were reported in The South Wales Daily News on 6th February 1989, Whitchurch being reprimanded.

tion in the date of the Scotch-Welsh match to February 11th.

A complaint from Newport Extras that Whitchurch had cancelled a match with them and given preference to Cardiff Reserves was discussed. It was resolved that Whitchurch Club be censured and told that in the event of a similar action they would be suspended.

On Mr A. L. David's report that Maesteg had walked off the field without authority nine minutes before time in their match against

This was the team selected to play against Pill Harriers (right), 10th February 1899 The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. PILL HARRIERS.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. Williams, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and P. Blake; half-backs, E. Evans and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), P. Norton, J. Stephens, V. Taylor, W. Amos, W. Board, W. Nicholls, and T. Harris.

CARDIFF V. NEATH.
At Cardiff. Cardiff: Back, T. I. Thomas;

On this occasion Whitchurch just fell short losing a tight game, 11th February 1899, The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. PILL HARRIERS.
Played at Whitchurch. The homesters were weakened by the absence of both half-backs. Brown commenced for the visitors, and Bob Thomas scored an unconverted try a few minutes from the start. The visitors continued to press. Good play by the homesters relieved, and for a time they pressed severely, enacting a minor. The visitors' halves resumed play to neutral ground, when the whistle sounded half-time, the score being:—Pill Harriers, one try; Whitchurch, one minor.

MONMOUTHSHIRE LEAGUE

On 17th February 1899 The Evening Express published the teams for Whitchurch vs Old Monktonians at Whitchurch.

The result was
Whitchurch, 2 Goals and 3 Tries
Old Monktonians 1 Goal.

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. John, T. L. Williams, T. Llewellyn, and P. Blake; half-backs, E. Evans and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), W. Broad, W. Amos, W. Nicholls, P. Norton, V. Taylor, J. Stephens, and T. Thompson. Old Monktonians: Back, G. Treharne; three-quarter backs, R. Lundie, F. Ovenden, R. C. Thomas, and T. Arkell; half-backs, C. Biggs and H. Lacey; forwards, G. W. Jenkins, E. D. Willoughby, J. Fitzgibbon, W. G. Scott, G. H. Ovenden, J. Richards, W. Williams, and F. R. Jones.

On 27th February 1899 The South Wales Daily News published a match report on the home game against Cwmburan, Whitchurch battling on but with a man short up front.

the home side, who won by six points to nil.

WHITCHURCH v CWMBRAN.

At Whitchurch before a good gate. Salman commenced for Whitchurch and the homesters pressed at the outset, but smart passing by Sadler enabled the visitors to remove the venue. Williams by a smart kick relieved. Good work by the visitors' pack enabled them to again press, but Ivor Llewellyn relieved, and Chislett running well put the visitors on the defence, but Thomas relieved.

Jones restarted, and Picton immediately essayed a drop at goal, which fell short. Cwmburan continued to hold the upper hand, Picton with a fine kick finding touch on the home line. Salman relieved, but Joe Tampiin picked up and dropped a neat goal. From the restart play continued in the home quarters. Saddler with a strong burst crossed over, Thomas converting. The game continued fast and exciting, the ball travelling to and fro at a great pace. Cwmburan again came near crossing the home line. The defence of the villagers, however, prevented it, and play was removed out of danger.

The game was well contested, each side going great guns right to the end. Whitchurch had the disadvantage of having to play seven forwards the greater portion of the game.

Final Score—		G. T. M.
Cwmburan	*1	0 0
Whitchurch	0	0 0

*Dropped.

COWBRIDGE v PONTYCLUN.

On 3rd March 1899 The Evening Express, published the Whitchurch team for what seems to be a return match with Risca played at home (below).

WHITCHURCH V. RISCA.

At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. L. Williams, T. John, T. Llewellyn, and P. Blake; half-backs, E. Evans and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), W. Broad, W. Amos, E. Boyer, S. Phillips, W. Nicholls, J. Stephens, and T. Thompson.

The Evening Express didn't seem too impressed with Risca that day though, 4th March 1899. (Right)

WHITCHURCH V. RISCA.

Played at Whitchurch in fine football weather. Gardner started for Risca, and smart footwork by Salmon and Boyer carried play to the visitors' line, Boyer scoring. The kick failed. At the re-start Risca pressed for a short time, but play was soon removed to the centre. When half-time arrived the score read:—Whitchurch, one try and one minor; Risca, nil.

Salmon re-started for the homesters, and play was carried to the visitors' line for a little time. Phillips made a fine run for Risca, and looked like a scorer. The home team soon removed the venue, and continued to hold the upper hand until the game was stopped by the undue roughness of a Risca player. Upon resuming, the same player adopted like tactics, and upon being ordered off with a home player, the whole Risca team objected to the decision, and went off the field. The match, which ended so unsatisfactorily, was awarded to Whitchurch. Score:—Whitchurch, one try and one minor; Risca, nil.

REMARKS.

Such a team as Risca has never been seen at Whitchurch before during a period of nearly twenty years. Whitchurch have never met such childish exponents of the game as Risca, who seemed more inclined to make for the exit than for their opponents' line.

YSTRAD V. MOUNTAIN ASH RESERVES.

The South Wales Daily News then picked up on it 9th March 1899 with this update (right):

1900.

WHITCHURCH v. RISCA.

Mr B. Lewis, of Pontypridd, reported S. Jeffries, of Risca, and D. Chislett, of Whitchurch, for fighting, and the Risca team for walking off the field before the conclusion of the match between these clubs at Whitchurch on Saturday last. Jeffries was suspended until the end of the season, and Chislett, who was held to have acted in defence, was let off with a week's suspension. The members of the Risca team were prohibited from playing on Saturday next, when they have a fixture at home against Abercarn.

PONTYPRIDD v. PENYGRAIG.

Mr T. England (Newport) reported J. Warlow, forward of Pontypridd, for rough play in last

In what seems to have been a match that had both sides missing a few 1st team regulars, Whitchurch managed a win away at Penarth, 11th March 1899 The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. PENARTH A.
Played at Penarth. Each side played several substitutes. Griffiths commenced for the homesters, and Salman returned well to touch. Play was of a fast and even character, the ball travelling up and down the field at a good pace. At half-time the score read—Penarth, nil; Whitchurch, nil. Upon resuming several shots at goal by the visitors fell short, minors only resulting. Final score:—Whitchurch, one goal, one try, four minors; Penarth, nil.

ST. PETER'S V. ST. ANDREW'S.

On 24th March 1899 the team selection for the home game against Tondy was published in The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. TONDU.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch:—Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, J. L. Williams, T. John, T. Llewellyn, and P. Blake; half-backs, E. Evans and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Salmon (captain), W. Broad, J. Stephens, V. Taylor, E. Boyer, P. Norton, W. Amos, and W. Nicholls.

CANTON V. CHELTENHAM.

The Tondy match had a good write up in The Evening Express on 25th March 1899

WHITCHURCH V. TONDU.
At Whitchurch, in wet weather, but on a good turf. The visitors turned out a strong fifteen. The home captain commenced operations, and Hopkins returned to touch. Tondy at once asserted their superior weight, and carried play to the home quarters, but Salman drove them back with a fine kick to touch. The visitors came away with a strong rush, headed by Alexander, which enabled Edwards to notch a try. In the second half Hopkins re-started for the visitors, and play settled down in midfield. From a scrum, Evans transferred to Chislett, who found touch in Tondy's quarters. A smart wheel and dribble by the home forwards enabled Norton to cross with a well-earned try, Salman converting. Encouraged by their lead, Whitchurch worked with a will, but the visitors' defence was keen, and play continued fast and even. Broad found touch at the half-way flag, and from an ensuing scrum no goal resulted. Upon re-starting a smart dribble by Stephens, Norton, and Broad enabled the villagers to press, but Hopkins soon removed the venue to half-way. Good play by Chislett enabled Whitchurch to maintain the pressure, but the defence of the visitors prevailed, and by a fine dribble the Tondy eight put the home line in danger, but Rowlands saved grandly. The half-time score was:—Tondy, one try; Whitchurch, nil. A fine dash for the line passed to Tom Llewellyn, the latter kicking across, enabled Jim Stephens to dash up and score a smart try, Salman again doing the needful from the kick-out. Tondy played up in a spirited fashion, and from a fast, loose dribble several of their forwards grounded the ball behind the homesters' posts, no goal resulting. Play continued even from now to the call of time, a brilliant try by Rowlands concluding a good game. Final score:—Whitchurch, two goals; Tondy, two tries.

REMARKS.
The game was splendidly contested, and those persons who braved the elements were fully compensated. The visitors were a smart

PRESS, SATURDAY, MA

team, but their backs lost several chances of scoring. The villagers played well to a man, and fully deserved their victory.

CHELTENHAM V. CANTON.

On 1st April 1899 Whitchurch had a good win over Chepstow St Mary's in an Easter tour game, The Evening Express.

St. Peter's 0 0 0

WHITCHURCH V. CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.

Whitchurch commenced their Easter tour at Chepstow, playing the St. Mary's team, before a large attendance. Norton commenced operations for the victors, who faced the wind and sun, and Chepstow, by smart back play, pressed, scoring an unconverted try. From the re-start play ruled fast, and even the defence on each side was severely taxed, but by half-time no further score was registered. Half-time score:—St. Mary's, one try; Whitchurch, nil. Resuming, the visitors rushed the scrums, and from a pretty wheel and dribble Nichol's scored, Sulman converting. The saints re-started with vigour, but Rowlands defended grandly and drove them back with a fine kick. From the ensuing scrum Evans passed smartly out to Chislett, who registered the visitors' second try.

Final score.		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	1	1	0	
Chepstow St. Mary	0	1	0	

REMARKS.

The game was grandly-contested, and Whitchurch deserved their victory.

MERTHYR VALE V. BRECON

Travelling a bit further on tour and just a few days later, they then played at Frome, winning again, despite 'being on tour'. 4th April 1899 The South Wales Daily News.

WHITCHURCH v. FROME.

Continuing their Easter tour, Whitchurch met Frome on the Nunney-road ground before a large attendance. Salman commenced for Whitchurch, and Frome invaded the visitors' quarters. From a scrum Evans broke away, and nearly put Chard in. Whitchurch now pressed, and from a strong forward rush Broad scored, Salman converting. From the restart Frome played with vigour, but Chislett made a grand sprint for Whitchurch, scoring a good try. The kick failed.

Half-time Score—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	1	1	0	
Frome	0	0	0	

Swain restarted. A long kick by the home back enabled the Somerset men to press. Llewellyn relieved, and the visitors worked out of danger. Wheeling a scrum Whitchurch broke away, but the homesters saved pluckily. From a line-out Evans passed to Salman, who, breaking away, passed to John, the latter transferring to Chard, who scored. No goal.

Final Score—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	1	2	0	
Frome	0	0	0	

PLYMOUTH v. ABERAVON

With no time to get over 'jet lag', they are then lined up to play Old Monktonians at home, The Evening Express, 7th April 1899 (right)

a larger score than two tries to nil.

WHITCHURCH v OLD MONKTONIANS.

At Whitchurch. Broad commenced for the homesters, and James with a good kick took play to the centre. From a scrum Evans secured, and had hard lines in not dropping a goal. From the drop out the homesters continued to press, but by a strong wind the Monktonians kept their lines intact.

Half-time Score—		G.	T.	M.
Old Monktonians	0	0	0	
Whitchurch	0	0	0	

Jenkins restarted, and with a fine dash Clark put the home line in danger, but Rowlands with a brilliant run relieved, nearly scoring. Play continued even for some time, but the Villagers eventually gained the upper hand and continually pressed, but loose refereeing and good defence prevented them scoring.

Final Score—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	0	2	
Monktonians	0	0	0	

CARDIFF HIBERNIANS v NEWPORT

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.

At Whitchurch. Home team:—Bock, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, T. Llewellyn, T. John, W. Salman (captain), and P. Chard; half-backs, E. Evons and D. Chislett; forwards, W. Broad, W. Amos, W. Evans, W. Nicholls, J. Stephens, E. Boyer, P. Norton, and T. Harris.

ST. PETER'S V. CARDIFF RESERVES.

At Cardiff. Reserves:—Back, H. B. Winfield;

The South Wales Daily News publishing this brief update on 10th April 1899 (left). A very successful week for Whitchurch.

What better way to conclude the season other than for the papers to publish the match records and here we have the entire season summed up by The South Wales Daily News on 17th April 1899 – (season 1888 – 89). It makes good viewing.

An impressive achievement.

1 penalty goal.

WHITCHURCH.

The record of the Cardiff suburbans this season is very good considering the advance in the class of teams met. The chief forte of the villagers has been vigorous forward play of the "Yorkshire" type. The backs are all promising youngsters, and should improve in their exhibition of football of the true Welsh style by next season. For next season fixtures have been arranged with Aberavon, Treherbert, Pontypridd, Bridgend, Cardiff Reserves, &c., and the Whitchurch team should advance greatly in the future.

Date.	Opponents.	Result.	For. Agst.			
			G.	T.	G.	T.
1898.						
Sept. 10	T. Dobson's XV.	lost	0	1	2	1
" 17	Ebbw Vale Crusaders	won	†1	0	0	0
" 24	Traorky	lost	0	1	1	0
Oct. 1	Old Monktonians	won	*2	3	0	0
" 8	Cardiff Mackintosh	won	†1	0	0	0
" 15	Cowbridge	won	0	3	0	0
" 22	Pontyclun	drawn	0	0	0	0
" 29	St. Andrew's	drawn	0	0	0	0
Nov. 5	Penylan	won	†1	0	0	0
" 12	Old Monktonians	drawn	0	0	0	0
" 19	Cwmbran	lost	0	0	2	0
" 26	St. Andrew's	lost	0	0	0	1
Dec. 3	Cowbridge	drawn	0	0	0	0
" 10	Chepstow St. Mary's	drawn	0	1	0	1
" 17	Pontypridd A.	won	0	2	0	0
" 24	Penarth A.	won	0	2	0	0
" 26	Ebbw Vale Crusaders	drawn	0	1	0	1
" 31	Risca	won	0	2	0	1
1899.						
Jan. 7	Tondu	drawn	0	0	0	0
" 14	Cardiff Reserves	lost	0	0	†1	1
" 21	Penylan	won	0	2	0	0
" 28	Cardiff Mackintosh	won	†1	0	0	0
Feb. 11	Pill Harriers	lost	0	0	0	1
" 18	Old Monktonians	won	2	3	0	0
" 25	Cwmbran	lost	0	0	†2	0
Mar. 4	Risca	won	0	1	0	0
" 11	Penarth A.	won	1	1	0	0
" 25	Tondu	won	2	0	0	2
April 1	Chepstow St. Mary's	won	1	1	0	0
" 3	Frome	won	1	2	0	0
" 8	Old Monktonians	drawn	0	0	0	0
" 15	Pill Harriers	lost	0	0	0	3

13 26 8 12

Played, 31; won, 16; drawn, 8; lost, 7. Points for, 125; against, 68.

†Drop goal. *Penalty goal.

GLOUCESTER.

There's another twist to the tale, in what seems to have been a finale to the season, having selected players between both teams, Whitchurch played Llandaff Yard at home and who should be referee, none other than Gwyn Nicholls.

On the day Whitchurch took the honours, 24th April 1899 The South Wales Daily News

LLANDAFF YARD V. WHITCHURCH.

At Whitchurch. Team: Back, W. Davies; three-quarter backs, S. Evans, C. Thomas, F. Boothby, and D. Tuckett; half-backs, P. Chard and J. Chard; forwards, D. Seaman, A. Moss, A. Chapple, A. Leaves, W. Lister, W. Evans, T. Holtham, and A. Alden. Kick-off at 3.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. E. Gwyn Nicholls.

Cardiff Hornets v. Nantgarw.—At Nantgarw.

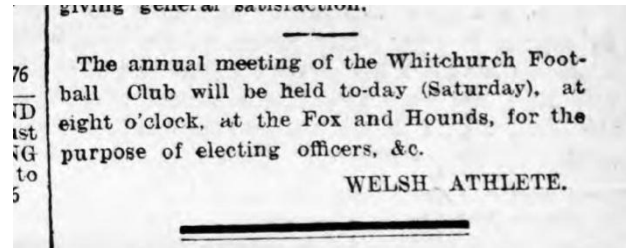
LLANDAFF YARD v WHITCHURCH.

Unusual interest was taken in this match, which took place at Whitchurch in summerlike weather before a large number of spectators.

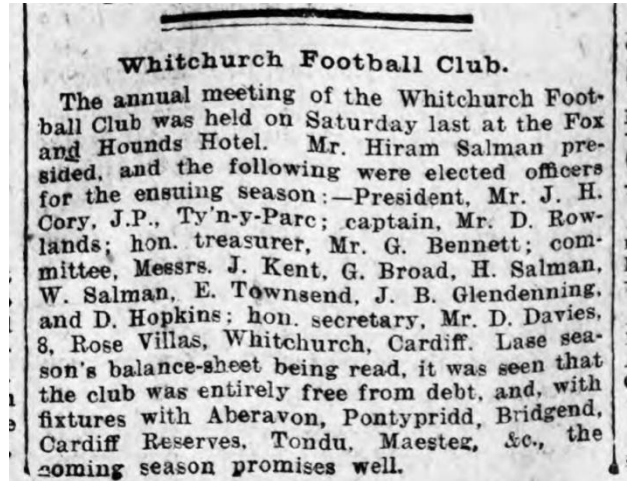
	Final Score—	G. T. M.
Whitchurch	*1 1 0
Llandaff	0 0 2

* Dropped.

During the summer, the AGM was held at The Fox and Hounds, this being reported by the sports columnist of The Evening Express on 15th July 1899.



A brief report on that meeting was published in The Evening Express on 17th July 1899 and it's worth noting that the club can now claim Mr. J. H. Cory J.P. as President and such has been the transformation at the club that it is now "free from debt".



So the beginning of season 1899 – 1900 saw the first game for Whitchurch away at Crumlin, players having to catch the train from Cardiff. The team selected for that match was published in The Evening Express on 15th September 1899

WHITCHURCH V. CRUMLIN.
To be played at Crumlin. Train leaves Great Western Railway at 2.25. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and P. Blake; half-backs, J. Kent and J. Chard; forwards, J. Stephens, W. Board, W. Amos, W. Nicholls, W. Evans, A. Chappell, W. Salman, P. Norton, and B. Miles; reserve, T. L. Williams.

The result not going our way, 18th September 1899, The South Wales Daily News.

chosen vice-captain.
WHITCHURCH V. CRUMLIN.
At Crumlin. Stephens commenced, and by a loose rush the visitors pressed. The home forwards broke away, but Salman saved. The homesters were awarded a free, which afforded relief. Good play on the part of both teams ensued. Crumlin in turn pressed, but Chard relieved from a free. Crumlin obtained a minor, which was followed by James shortly afterwards dropping a goal.
Final Score— G. T. M.
Crumlin..... *1 1 0
Whitchurch..... 0 0 0
*Dropped.
PONTYPRIDD TRIAL.

Another tough game away at Ponty, 23rd September 1899, The Evening Express (right)

The South Wales Daily News was full of praise for the Whitchurch side in their report on 25th September 1899 (below).

In the Pontypridd v. Whitchurch match the homesters occasionally gave indications of having the making of a strong team, but before they can aspire to League championship honour, their third line will have to be remodelled. It was forward that Pontypridd held the greatest advantage. McKenzie, the captain, set his men a good example, which the pack endeavoured to emulate. They followed up well, and showed an improvement in heeling out. The pick were McKenzie, Miller, McGuire, and Warlow.

Though Whitchurch were conquered, they were not disgraced. From the start to the final toot of the whistle they stuck to their uphill fight with great pluck. Their forwards were hardly good enough for the homesters, though at half they held their own. The three-quarters had a lot of defensive work to do, and they did it well. At back the captain, Rowlands, played a great game, his long kicks being a feature of his play. Llewellyn and Evans were the pick of the three-quarters, and Amos, Boyer, and Rudman of the forwards.

PONTYPRIDD V. WHITCHURCH.
In a beautiful football weather Pontypridd played the first match of the season on the Taff Vale Park on Saturday, their opponents being Whitchurch. Pontypridd were represented by:—Back, Barry; three-quarter backs, Read, Seale, Paget, and Lewis; half-backs, Usher and Rowlands; forwards, Mackenzie (captain), Millar, Warlow, M'Guire, Jones, Paget, Price, and Vaughan. Whitchurch: Back, Rowlands; three-quarter backs, Llewellyn, Solomon, Boothby, and Evans; half-backs, Kent and Chard; forwards, Amos, Boyer, Stevens, Nicholls, Broad, Chapel, Evans, and Rudman. Referee, Mr. Crawley, Cardiff.

Whitchurch kicked off, and for a time war waged in the home territory. D. L. Davies, who was rather prominent at half, picked up the oval and passed to Reed, who, after a smart run, scored. M'Kenzie failed to convert. In the ensuing play Pontypridd again pressed, and were frequently in the visitors' ground. Just when they were before the posts Chick picked up from a scramble, and very coolly dropped a goal. A few minutes later Reed scored another try.

Final score. G. T. M.
Pontypridd 1 4 0
Whitchurch 0 0 0

ABERAVON V. LEICESTER.

On 29th September 1899 The Evening Express published the team selections for the Whitchurch v Penylan match

WHITCHURCH V. PENYLAN.
At Whitchurch. Penylan: Back, W. Riches; three-quarter backs, C. Seaman, D. Evans, Ivor James, and C. Thomas; half-backs, W. S. Davies and H. W. Hyde; forwards, R. J. Auckland (captain), D. L. Evans, H. S. Coppock, L. Llewellyn, D. Owen, J. Niblett, F. Good, and D. Theophilus. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. O'Hard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, E. Evans and J. Stephens; forwards, W. Broad, W. Amos, W. Nicholls, E. Boyer, J. Rugman, A. Chappell, W. Evans, and S. Evans. Penylan meet at North-road at 2.45 p.m. sharp.

On 2nd October 1899 The South Wales Daily News published this brief report on the first home game of the season and a win against Penylan

One field goal.
WHITCHURCH v. PENYLAN.
Whitchurch for the first time appeared at home and Penylan were their opponents. The visitors turned up two short. Mr T. H. Jones was the referee. Stephens commenced for the homesters and Penylan returned well to the home 25. Play continued here for some time, but Rowlands relieved the pressure. Smart work by Hyde enabled Penylan to return, but the home eight rushed the scrummages and play was continued in the centre. Half-time: No score. Resuming Whitchurch went off with vigour, securing a couple of minors. Eventually, from a fast, loose rush, E. Evans scored, Rowlands converting. Resuming, the Cardiffians had a good share of the play, but the home ups again came into prominence, Stephens scoring, and Rowlands converting with a splendid kick. From the restart the homesters still held the upper hand, passing by the brothers Chard and Llewellyn carrying play to the visitors' line. No further score was added.
Final Score—

	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch.....	2	0	0
Penylan.....	0	0	0

On the 6th October 1899 The Evening Express published (right) the team for the next match at home, to Cardiff Reserves, a prestigious event on the calendar and one sure to attract a big crowd.

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF RESERVES.
At Whitchurch. Kick-off at 3.30 p.m. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, E. Evans and J. Chard; forwards, J. Stephens, J. Rugman, W. Broad, W. Evans, A. Chappell, E. Boyer, W. Amos, and W. Nicholls.
ABERGAVENTNY V. NEWPORT EXTRAS.
At Abergavenny. Kick-off at 3.15. Aber-

The match report was published on 7th October 1899. (Below and right)

CARDIFF RESERVES V. WHITCHURCH.
Owing to the disbandment of the Neath Second Team, Cardiff Reserves were without a fixture, fixture, and Whitchurch being in the same position as regards Barry, a game was arranged at Whitchurch. The teams lined out under the direction of Mr. R. John. Teams:—Reserves: Back, N. Thomas; three-quarter backs, J. Williams, Lundv. G. O. Common, and F. Lewis; half-backs, Tresize and Kestell; forwards, Edwards, Kemp, Rogers, Fry, Coppock, Owen, Canter, and Spackman. Whitchurch: Back, Rowlands; three-quarter backs, Chard, Llewellyn, John, and Boothby; half-backs, Chard and Evans; forwards, Solomon, Amos, Chappell, Norton, Bogle, Rugman, Stevens, and Nicholls. Cardiff started, and Whitchurch found touch at the visitors' 25. From here a rush was well stopped by N. Thomas, who kicked to touch at halfway. Cardiff then rushed to the home 25, where Rowlands received a round of applause for a splendid save from a mark. Cardiff forced a

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minor. From a scrum Tresize started a round of passing which was nicely stopped by Llewellyn on the line. Whitchurch worked away to mid-field, where Edwards led a dribble which took play to the home 25. The play then ruled very even up to half-time, when there was no score. Whitchurch re-started, and keeping the ball going took play to the visitors' 25 line. Tresize now made a brilliant opening, and passing to J. Williams that player went over with the first try, the same player failing with the goal kick. After the drop-out some loose play was indulged in, and Williams again picked up, and eluding a few men went over under the posts. The goal kick failed. Whitchurch now bucked up and took play to Cardiff's line, where the visitors had the utmost difficulty in clearing. Several free kicks were given, nothing, however, resulting from them. Coppock started some interpassing among the forwards, which took play right to the Whitchurch line, and Spackman picking up scored the third try, which J. Williams converted.

	G.	T.	M.
Cardiff Reserves	1	2	2
Whitchurch	0	0	2

BRISTOL RESERVES V. PENARTH RESERVES
This match was played before the largest

The South Wales Daily News published a brief report on what was the same match (vs Cardiff Reserves) on 9th October 1899. Whitchurch impressing in what was considered to have been a “thoroughly enjoyable game”.

when awarded three were very poor.

Whitchurch versus the Welsh Metropolitan Reserve string was a thoroughly enjoyable game. Both sides displayed good football. A feature of the play was the duel between the respective packs, and here the homesters held a slight advantage, and the Reserves improved their form against Bristol. The score, everyone admitted, was not a true representation of the game. Stephens and Chard both had the visitors' line at their mercy, but fickle Dame Fortune was against them. Throughout the game was fast and open, the pace being a cracker, and the Reserves stayed the better. For the homesters Rowlands was a tower of strength, but every man put in all they knew. For Cardiff Kestrell did well, while Nevill Thomas ran Rowlands closely, and that is saying a great deal. The forwards, who we have already commented upon, showed a marked improvement in form.

On 16th October The South Wales Daily News published a report on the home game against Old Monktonians

WHITCHURCH v OLD MONKTONIANS.

At Whitchurch in fine football weather before a good gate. Jenkins commenced for the Monks, who carried play to the home 25 and pressed for some time. Chard relieved for the homesters by good play, and took the ball to the Monks' territory. From a scrum near the line the Monks' forwards took the ball back to the homesters' line, and Jenkins scored. The kick failed. After the restart Jack Chard, with a fine dribble, had hard lines in not scoring. Half-time score—Old Monktonians, 1 try; Whitchurch, nil. Rowland restarted and the homesters awoke to their task, Llewellyn dropping a fine goal. Boyer afterwards secured and scored. The kick failed. The visitors were beaten forward. Llewellyn scored a splendid try after beautiful passing. The kick was successful. The Monks could not remove the play from their line, although Treharne broke away several times. The play was soon brought back to the visitors' line. Stephens, with a good rush, scored, no goal resulting. Final score: Whitchurch, 1 converted goal 1 dropped goal 2 tries; Old Monks, 1 try.

TREFOREST v. PONTYPRIDD RESERVES.

1899.

Vales
the
rugby
truly,
Whitchurch and Tondy will be a rare tussle to-day. It is rumoured that Tom Dobson will don the Whitchurch jersey.

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D. Evans, of Penylan, it is stated, is about to join the Whitchurch ranks, whose three-quarter line will be considerably strengthened thereby.

Tondy piled on a rare score against Penylan last Saturday. Will they do likewise at Whitchurch to-day? It is thought not.

The Brynmawr committee have again re-

Recruitment carries on, The Evening Express on 21st October 1899 reporting on a few rumours.

On 23rd October 1899 The South Wales Daily News published the score line Whitchurch, 1 Goal and 1 try; Tondy 2 Tries

On 28th October 1899 the boys played against Canton at home, The Evening Express

Davies, C George, D Jowett, A James, W Tucker, W George, A Canter, and D Evans. Whitchurch—Back, D Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P Chard, Jones, F Boothby, and T John; half-backs, J Chard and W Salman; forwards, T Dobson, J Stephens, F Bunn, W Nicholls, E Boyer, W Evans, A Chappell, J Rugman, and W Amos.
Caerphilly v Machen.—At Caerphilly. Caerphilly

Team selection from The South Wales Daily News 28th October 1899

ford gained considerable ground.

WHITCHURCH V. CANTON.
Played at Whitchurch. Canton turned up two short. Rowlands commenced for the homesters, and play settled down in the visitors' quarters, but the Canton backs got moving, and the home territory was invaded. Carrying the scrums, Whitchurch came down the field and obtained a minor. Passing was kept up—the home three-quarters, which enabled them to keep up the pressure, but minors only fell to their lot. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, three minors; Canton nil.

Harding re-started, and from exchange kicking Canton found touch near the home goal, play did not remain here long, and the villagers were in the visitors' 25 for a lengthy period, but their efforts lacked finish. Two penalties for holding fell to their lot, but the shots went slightly wide. Canton's defence was superb, and, try as they would, Whitchurch could not score.

	Final score	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	0	4
Canton	0	0	0

REMARKS.
Last Saturday the homesters showed the best of form, but to-day the game was painfully slow, and Canton with thirteen men held them at bay. The visitors laid themselves out to play the defensive game, and in this they succeeded to perfection, and to them goes the credit of the game.

TENBY HARLEQUINS V. PEMBROKE DOCK.

On 3rd November 1899 The Evening express published the team to play against Penylan at home.

WHITCHURCH v. PENYLAN.
To be played at Whitchurch; kick off at three p.m. Referee, Mr. T. H. James, Welsh Football Union. Teams.—Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, C. J. Jones, and T. John; half-backs, D. Rowlands (captain) and J. Chard; forwards, J. Stephens, P. Norton, A. Chappell, F. Bunn, J. Rugman, W. Nicholls, W. Amos, and W. Evans.

NEATH v. PENYGRAIG

On 11th November The Evening Express reported on a home match against Chepstow.

Whitchurch v Chepstow
Played at Whitchurch. Norton commenced, and the visitors returned into the home territory. Evans was conspicuous for some time, Burts nearly scoring. The Chepstow backs soon removed the venue, but Salman initiated some fine passing, and the homesters pressed, but George Williams made a grand run, and Chepstow were neatly in, but the homesters returned and Salman scored a fine try. No goal.

	Half-time score	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	0
Chepstow	0	0	0

The visitors re-started, and play was even for some time. Smart work by the Chepstow eight resulted in the home line being in peril, but the villagers worked hard and cleared. Eventually they took up the attack, Stephens nearly scoring. Passing between John and Jones nearly put the latter in, but Chepstow's defence was sound. Llewellyn broke through, and Peter Chard was tackled near the line. The Monmouthshire men soon relieved, and took play out of danger, and, by judicious kicking, worked their way down the field. Led by Norton, the homesters again came to the attack, but could not score.

	Final score	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	3
Chepstow	0	0	0

REMARKS.
Play was fast and exciting, and, if anything, the homesters should have scored more points. Throughout the game was well contested, and was of an open

On 13th November The South Wales Daily News reported on a home game against Chepstow St Mary's

WHITCHURCH v. CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.		
At Whitchurch, Norton commenced, and the visitors returned into the home territory. Evans was conspicuous for some fine bursts, nearly scoring. The Chepstow backs soon removed the venue, but Salman initiated some fine passing, and the homesters pressep. Soon after Chepstow were nearly in, but the homesters returned, and Salman scored a fine try. No goal resulted.		
The visitors restarted, and play was even for some time. Smart work by the Chepstow eight resulted in the home line being in peril, but the Villagers worked hard and cleared. Eventually they took up the attack, Stephens nearly scoring. The passing between John and Jones nearly put the latter in, but Chepstow's defence was sound. Llewellyn broke through, and Peter Chard was tackled near the line. The Monmouthshire men soon relieved and took play out of danger, and by judicious kicking worked their way down the field. Led by Norton the homesters again came to the attack, but could not score.		
Final Score—		
Whitchurch.....	G. T. M.	0 1 3
Chepstow St. Mary's		0 0 0
REMARKS.		
Play was fast and exciting, and if anything the homesters should have scored more points. Throughout the game was well contested, and was of an open character, the home backs showing considerable improvement.		
TREDEGAR v PONTYMISTER.		

The team selections for Whitchurch vs Old Monktonians were published in The Evening Express, 1st December 1899.

THE TEAMS.	
WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.	
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and C. J. Jones; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer, J. Stephens, F. Bann, V. Taylor, W. Evans, B. Wiles; J. Rugman, A. Chappell, and W. Nicholls. Old Monktonians: Back, A. R. Smith; three-quarter backs, H. Howell, E. G. Treharne, P. Gunn, and R. M. Elliot; half-backs, J. L. Allan (captain), and E. D. Davis; forwards, G. W. Jenkins, T. Richards, F. Jones, K. W. Hansen, H. Robertson, E. D. Willoughby, G. H. Ovenden, and F. W. Ovenden.	
PENARTH V. ABERAVON.	

The match report appeared in The Evening express on 2nd December 1899

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.		
Played at Whitchurch. Jenkins commenced for the visitors, who at once rushed play into the home quarters, and for some time the home defence was sorely taxed, Roberston nearly scoring. Salmon relieved, and after smart passing Jones scored for the homesters, no goal resulting. Whitchurch continued to attack, and Stephens scored a smart try, the kick failing. The Monks, aided by good kicking on the part of Smith, attacked vigorously but could not score.		
Half-time score. G. T. M.		
Whitchurch	0	2 0
Monktonians	0	0 0
Stephens re-started, and the visitors' line was invaded, and passing between Llewellyn and Chard, ending in the latter crossing, Rowland converting. Re-starting Boyer made a brilliant run, and eventually scored, the kick failing. Upon resuming, Tom John smartly fielded the ball, and scored, Rowland doing the needful. The Monks darted up, and by some fine forward dashes became dangerous, but Rowland relieved, and the visitors being penalised for off-side tactics, Llewellyn dropped a grand goal.		
Whitchurch	*3	3 0
Monktonians	0	0 0
*Two converted and one penalty.		
REMARKS.		
The game was not so one-sided as it appears. The visiting pack held their own in the fight, but the home eight fairly beat them in the open. Smith, the visiting full-back, was a host in himself. Behind, the homesters showed marked improvement, all the backs showing rare dash.		

On 9th December 1899 The Evening Express reported on another Whitchurch win, this time at home to Cowbridge.

The result was: Whitchurch, 3 Goals and 2 Tries; Cowbridge, 1 Minor.

WHITCHURCH V. COWBRIDGE.
 Played at Whitchurch. The visitors turned out a man short. Play from the outset was keen, but the homesters did most of the attacking, but Cowbridge, with a long kick, enforced a minor. The villagers continued to press, and smart work by Rowlands and Jones enabled Tom John to score. Rowlands converted. Re- was fast and open, but there was no further score.

Half-time score.		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	.....	1	0	0
Cowbridge	.....	0	0	0

The Christmas period once again was a demanding time for the club having matches arranged for the 23rd; 25th (Christmas Day) and 26th. The team selections for those games was published in The Evening Express on 22nd December 1899.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.
 Whitchurch play a series of home holiday matches as follows:—December 23—v. Pontyclun, kick-off 2.45 p.m.; December 25—v. St. Andrew's, kick-off 10.30 a.m.; December 26—v. Brecon, kick-off 10.30 a.m. The team will be as follows:—Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, F. Boothby and C. J. Jones; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards from, V. Taylor, E. Boyer, J. Stephens, W. Evans, A. Chapel, B. Miles, F. Bunn, W. Nicholls, J. Rugman.

CHEPSTOW V. CARDIFF RESERVES.

The Pontyclun match was a close encounter reported in The Evening Express on 23rd December 1899 (below and right)

Final score.		G.	T.	M.
Swansea A	.....	*2	1	0
Carmarthen	.....	0	2	0

*Two dropped.

WHITCHURCH V. PONTYCLUN.
 Whitchurch commenced their home matches for the holidays by meeting Pontyclun. Both sides suffered from absentees. Mort commenced for the visitors, and the men in scarlet rushed into the home quarter. The homesters retaliated, and penned the visitors, but

DECEMBER 23 1899.

Warren smartly relieved. An attack was made on the home line, but Llewellyn came away, and gave to Chord, who scored. No goal resulted.

Half-time score:—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	.....	0	1	0
Pontyclun	.....	0	0	0

Salman restarted, and Bunstone returned into the home quarters. Play settled down dangerously near the home line, but a fine rush by the homesters removed the venue, and the visitors' line was in peril. From a scrum Pontyclun rushed away, and Jones had the home line at his mercy, but essayed a drop at goal, which failed. Boothby put in some smart work, and play was taken out of danger. From a scrum Jack Chard passed neatly out out Salman, who made a fine burst, and using excellent judgment, passed to Llewellyn, who in turn passed to Peter Chard, who scored a fine try. No goal resulted.

Final score.		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	.....	0	2	0
Pontyclun	.....	0	0	0

REMARKS.
 On the day's form the homesters deserved to win. Pontyclun ained possession oftener in the scrums, but almost invariably bungled. The opportunities that came the homesters' way were splendidly and fully utilised.

Then on Christmas Day came the St Andrew's match, another win for Whitchurch, 26th December 1899 The South Wales Daily News (below)

WHITCHURCH v. ST. ANDREWS.	
At Whitchurch before a good attendance on Christmas Day. Referee, Mr A. H. Williams, W.F.U. Gaining possession from a scrummage Jack Chard started a bout of passing, which ended in Jones dashing over with a good try. Rowlands failed to convert. Resuming, the visitors set to work to equalise, and soon Davies scored a smart try which remained unconverted. With things equal each side strove to gain the upper hand, and a few minors fell to the lot of the Saints.	
Half-time Score—	
St. Andrew's	G. T. M. 0 1 2
Whitchurch	0 1 0
Jim Stephens restarted, and Whitchurch went to work in earnest and, rushing the scrums, carried play dangerously near the visitors' line. Winfield cleared, and the villagers started passing, Salmon, Llewellyn, Boothby, and Jones handling, the latter scoring, no goal resulting. The visitors from the restart came away down the field, and Davies was nearly in. Llewellyn tackling him from behind, the Saints' man receiving an injury which caused his retirement. The homesters soon again scored through Evans.	
Final Score—	
Whitchurch	G. T. M. 0 3 0
St. Andrew's	0 1 2
PENYGRAIG v. PLYMOUTH.	

With no time to rest The Evening Express then published the team selection for the next game at home to Maesteg, 29th December 1899.

Followed by another win on Boxing Day from The South Wales Daily News, 27th December 1899 (below).

WHITCHURCH v. BRECON.	
Whitchurch played their concluding holiday match on Boxing Day with Brecon at Whitchurch. Rain which fell incessantly during the morning, ceased just before the commencement of operations. Boyer started for the homesters, who soon got into Brecon's quarters, where Llewellyn registered a try, which was not converted. Stephens soon followed with another; then Chard scored a beauty, followed quickly by one by Jones, the latter only being converted.	
Half-time Score—	
Whitchurch	G. T. M. 1 3 0
Brecon	0 0 0
Resuming, the homesters continued to show marked superiority. Chard scored another, which was not converted; then Amos and Jones got over, Salmon converting both.	
Final Score—	
Whitchurch	G. T. M. 3 4 0
Brecon	0 0 0
REMARKS.	
In fairness to Brecon it should be stated that they played 12 men throughout, although to balance matters the homesters had but 13 through the major portion of the game.	
RATH v. ABERTILLERY.	

WHITCHURCH v. MAESTEG.	
At Maesteg. Whitchurch. Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, J. Stephens, and E. Boyer; half-backs, Jim Chard and A. N. Other; forwards, W. Amos, W. Evans, W. Nicholls, J. Rugman, F. Bunn, V. Taylor, A. Chappel, and B. Wiles.	
CANTON v. RATH	

The new millennium looms.....What a way to start the 1900's

1900

The next team selection was for the home match against Old Monktonians, 5th January 1900 The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, J. Rugman; three-quarter backs, J. Chard, D. Rowlands (captain), F. Boothby, and C. J. Jones; half-backs, J. Chard and A. N. Other; forwards, V. Taylor, B. Wiles, W. Evans, E. Boyer, F. Bunn, A. Chappell, J. Stephens, W. Amos, and W. Nicholls. Old Monktonians: Back, A. R. Smith; three-quarter backs, R. Lundie, E. G. Treharne, P. Gunn, and H. Howell; half backs, R. M. Elliot and H. Lacey; forwards, T. Richards, R. W. Bartlett, F. Jones, A. I. Clark, W. G. Scott, K. W. Hansen, W. Williams, and E. A. Fry.

MAESTEG HARLEQUINS V. OGMORE VALE.

On 12th January 1900 the team selection for an away game at Pill Harriers was published in The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. PILL HARRIERS.
At Newport. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, V. Taylor, W. Evans, J. Stephens, A. Chappel, B. Wiles, W. Amos, F. Bunn, J. Rugman, and W. Nicholls.

CANTON V. PENARTH RESERVES

The Pillgwenlly game was a tough one, going down comprehensively, 13th January 1900, The Evening Express.

PILL HARRIERS V. WHITCHURCH.
Played at Newport on a slippery turf before a fair attendance. Groves commenced for the homesters, who at once attacked, and from smart work by Hillman, Llewellyn scored, no goal resulting. Re-starting, good play by the visitors' eight enabled them to attack, and Stephens had the line at his mercy, but was held by the home full back. A penalty was allowed but a minor only resulted. Play continued in home quarters for some time, but the Whitchurch men were repelled, and Pill had a lengthy spell of attacking.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Pill Harriers	0	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Salmon re-started and the Harriers at once invaded their opponents' quarters, and Harvey at length got over Hillman converting. Whitchurch played well in the loose, but a second illegal tackle prevented them scoring, the penalty kick taken by Rowlands just dropping short. Pill, who now played fourteen men, scored again through Harvey and Groves.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Pill Harriers	1	3	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

DONTMISTED V. PENARTH

Meanwhile The South Wales Echo posted an advert for 2nd team games

GRAND League Match, Treherbert v. Mountain Ash, at Mountain Ash. Kick-off 4 p.m. Admission 6d.; Stand, 6d extra.
WHITCHURCH Reserves require fixtures with good junior teams.—Davies, Whitchurch. 319

Our other village team, Whitchurch Crescents, didn't come out of this too well, showing just how ambiguous some of the regulations are for local league games, 16th January 1900 The Evening Express

Whitchurch Crescents were due to meet St. Mary's at the Sophia Gardens, but did not put in an appearance. I hear that the Crescents were a little sore over the action of St. Mary's in claiming the points when they visited Whitchurch, and were, therefore, not keen on fulfilling the return fixture. The committee had no alternative but to award the points.

Penarth Thistles journeyed to Splott Park to play St. Saviour's. The originally

There's has been a change of fortunes since the start of the millennium, here's another difficult afternoon at Tondy, 20th January 1900, The Evening Express.

TONDU V. WHITCHURCH.

This match played at Tondy was for the benefit of the players who got hurt on Christmas Day at Bridgend. The tickets sold well, and there were a good number present. The teams lined out as follows:—

Whitchurch: Back, Rowlands; three-quarter backs, Boothby, John Llewellyn, and Chard; half-backs, Solomon and Chard; forwards, Chappel, Bann, Evans, Amos Miles, Kent, Griffiths, and Stephens. Tondy: Back, Edwards; three-quarter backs, Williams, Oliver, Flynn, and Jones; half-backs, Ward Hopkins and Thomas; forwards, Duggan, John Major, J. Mofis, P. C. Thomas, Kingdom, and Matthews. Referee, Mr. Emery, Bridgend.

Griffiths kicked off towards the railway end, and Flynn returned to half-way. A moment later the visitors looked dangerous, but Williams saved by a fine kick, and the first scrum was formed in Tondy territory. Jacob assayed a drop, which struck the crossbar, a minor resulting. Griffiths dropped out, but the ball was well returned by Edwards. Good forward play by the visitors, in which Evans was conspicuous, carried play near the home line. Allen relieved. Tondy were now on the aggressive, and had hard lines in not scoring. Solomon by a huge punt transferred play into the home quarters, and forced the homesters to concede a minor. Following the drop-out, Tondy again pressed, and Flynn rushing up, seemed all over a scorer, but Rowlands kicked out of bounds. A fast pace followed, and Evans again was conspicuous, and prevented the home custodian from returning, but Oliver came to the rescue and saved. A good rush, the home representatives now took place, Llewellyn missing his kick, Matthews picked up and ran in easily, Duggan failing to majorise.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Tondy	0	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Duggan re-started, and Rowlands returned just outside his 25. From a scrum the home ups carried the leather near the visitors' line, and Morgan John carried the ball at his toes. The visitors were neutralised, but no ground was gained thereby. Chard made his mark near his quarter flag, but Allen returned well, and play settled down in the visitors' territory. For off-side play the visitors were awarded a free, and, several exchanges taking place, Matthews nearly got over, the ball falling out of his hands, and a moment later by good passing Oliver was pushed into touch a yard from the line. Tondy were now doing all the pressing, and crossed several times, but for some infringement was called back, but eventually, from a rush, Kingdom got over in the extreme corner, Duggan just missing the goal. For off-side play both sides were several times punished. The visitors now offered a stubborn defence, and kept their lines in a splendid way from the continuous attacks of the homesters. A good round of passing by Whitchurch nearly resulted in a try, and forced their third minor. The visitors, now looking up, made strenuous efforts to cross, and taxed the home defence. Thanks to Major, Mathews, and Hopkins, the ball was again taken near the visitors' goal, and from a scrum the last-named added the major points. Griffiths gave a fine kick-off, and, with the return, Solomon made his mark. Play settled at the centre. Time was now called.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Tondy	1	2	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

REMARKS.

The match was of a scrabbling nature. Both sides played well, but the score fairly indicates the superiority of the home team over their opponents. Both full backs played well, and the forwards were about evenly matched. Duggan, Matthews, John, and Major played well for the home team, while Evans and Griffiths and Bund were easily first for the visitors.

Tondy	0	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Duggan re-started, and Rowlands returned just outside his 25. From a scrum the home ups carried the leather near the visitors' line, and Morgan John carried the ball at his toes. The visitors were neutralised, but no ground was gained thereby. Chard made his mark near his quarter flag, but Allen returned well, and play settled down in the visitors' territory. For off-side play the visitors were awarded a free, and, several exchanges taking place, Matthews nearly got over, the ball falling out of his hands, and a moment later by good passing Oliver was pushed into touch a yard from the line. Tondy were now doing all the pressing, and crossed several times, but for some infringement was called back, but eventually, from a rush, Kingdom got over in the extreme corner, Duggan just missing the goal. For off-side play both sides were several times punished. The visitors now offered a stubborn defence, and kept their lines in a splendid way from the continuous attacks of the homesters. A good round of passing by Whitchurch nearly resulted in a try, and forced their third minor. The visitors, now looking up, made strenuous efforts to cross, and taxed the home defence. Thanks to Major, Mathews, and Hopkins, the ball was again taken near the visitors' goal, and from a scrum the last-named added the major points. Griffiths gave a fine kick-off, and, with the return, Solomon made his mark. Play settled at the centre. Time was now called.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Tondy	1	2	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

REMARKS.

The match was of a scrabbling nature. Both sides played well, but the score fairly indicates the superiority of the home team over their opponents. Both full backs played well, and the forwards were about evenly matched. Duggan, Matthews, John, and Major played well for the home team, while Evans and Griffiths and Bund were easily first for the visitors.

Here's the one the local supporters have been waiting for, a day out in Cardiff. The Whitchurch team selection, 2nd February 1900 The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF RESERVES.
At Cardiff. Kick-off at three o'clock. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, W. Evans, J. Stephens, B. Wiles, V. Taylor, J. Rugman, F. Bunn, W. Amos, A. Chappell, and E. Boyer.

The match report was published in The Evening Express on 3rd February 1900 and a tight game it was too at The Arms Park.

CARDIFF RESERVES V. WHITCHURCH.

Cardiff's reserve force had as opponents their neighbours, Whitchurch, whose performances this season show them to be a capable fifteen. The contending players were—Whitchurch: Back, Rowlands; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, Llewellyn, John, and Boothby; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, Evans, Stephens, Wiles, Taylor, Rugman, Bunn, Amos, and Boyer. Cardiff Reserves: Back, N. Thomas; three-quarter backs, Bush, Ivor Jones, W. Williams, and Lewis; half-backs, Dutton and Tresize; forwards, Plowman, Harl, Hill, Grey, Morgan, Coppock, Evans, and Llewellyn. On the commencement of proceedings Whitchurch attacked mildly, getting into the home quarter on a couple of occasions. Smart play by the Cardiff backs repelled them, and then the home men had a turn. Getting once again in Cardiff's 25, the Whitchurch custodian took a pot-shot at goal, a minor result. They still kept in proximity of the home line, but a round of passing in which Dutton and Williams were prominent, relieved the pressure, midfield now becoming the venue. A promising movement was initiated by Hart, but nothing came of it. Just about this period Bush seemed to have a fair chance of relieving the line; Rowlands, however, just managed to effect his seizure. Things slowed down somewhat; at length the villagers forced the second minor, the result of a long kick. A series of exchange kicks were afterwards indulged in, both sides seemingly being incapable of finding the touch-line within a dozen or so attempts. When W. Williams broke away from mid-field Whitchurch seemed in a bad way. His final transfer was muffed, failure again having to be recorded. The interval whistle now sounded.

Half-time score.			
G.	T.	M.	
Whitchurch	0	0	2
Cardiff Reserves	0	0	0

After the respite Cardiff improved in their

Half-time score.			
G.	T.	M.	
Whitchurch	0	0	2
Cardiff Reserves	0	0	0

After the respite Cardiff improved in their play, and Dutton finding an opening, broke through, Lewis and then Williams taking part, and gaining ground. The latter was nicely accounted for by P. Chard not a moment too soon. John intercepted a pass, and looked like finding his way across, but his immediate opponents were too numerous. A fine punt by Fred Lewis gained considerable ground at a time when that commodity was urgently needed. Slipshod work, in which both fifteens were equally at fault, succeeded. Whitchurch after this set up quite a keen invasion, and were giving the home contingent considerable trouble. Ivor Jones put a better complexion on things. Bush was the one to make a lasting impression, however. Fielding from a flying kick, and nicely rounding his men, he grounded in a favourable position. No goal resulted. Neither side gained any appreciable advantage from now until the conclusion, which shortly arrived.

Final score.			
G.	T.	M.	
Cardiff Reserves	0	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	2

REMARKS.

In running the hitherto almost invincible Reserves to a try Whitchurch have every reason to feel satisfied. In a game not overfull with incident, the visitors had a fair share in attack, while to their keen defence the mud-begrimed condition of the winners amply testified. On the side of the latter Bush, Dutton, and W. Williams were frequently in the ascendant, and on behalf of Whitchurch the brothers Chard, Llewellyn, and Rowlands did well. Both packs performed creditably.

The next match was a home game against old rivals Old Monktonians, the teams being published in The Evening Express on 9th February 1900

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, V. Taylor, E. Boyer, F. Bunn, B. Wiles, A. Chappell, W. Evans, J. Stephens, and J. Rugman. Old Monktonians: Back, W. Riches; three-quarters, E. Lundie, E. G. Treharne, H. Howell, and T. L. Williams; half-backs, H. Lace and E. D. Davies; forwards, G. W. Jenkins (captain), E. D. Willoughby, F. Jones, R. W. Bartlett, W. G. Scott, W. T. Hooper, A. G. Care, and F. W. Otenden.

ROATH V. BLAENAVON.

On 23rd February 1900 The Evening Express published the teams for the home match against Old Monktonians

OLD MONKTONIANS V. WHITCHURCH.
At Whitchurch. Teams.—Old Monktonians: Back, A. R. Smith; three-quarter backs, R. Lundie, G. Treharne, H. Howell and T. L. Williams; half-backs, E. D. Davies and H. Lace; forwards, G. W. Jenkins (captain), E. D. Wyloughby, T. Richards, R. Bartlett, W. G. Scott, W. T. Hasper, F. W. Ovenden, and F. R. Jones. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, J. Stephens, W. Evans, V. Taylor, B. Wiles, E. Boyer, A. Chappell, F. Seaman, and W. Blakemore.

On the fixture schedule this would have been a tough game, the final result though showed a fairly dominant display by Whitchurch, 12th March 1900, The South Wales Daily News

Pontymoile 0 0 2
WHITCHURCH v MAESTEG.
At Whitchurch. Considerable interest was evinced in the visit of the Mid-Glamorgan cupholders. The visitors suffered from absentees, but brought good substitutes. Rowlands commenced for the homesters, and Dobson charging down the return scored in the first minute. No goal resulted. Maesteg after the restart played with dash, but the homesters came again, and for holding the visitors were penalised, Llewellyn dropping a smart goal and gaining possession often in scrummages. Maesteg worked into the home quarters. Peter Chard relieved with a smart run, and kicking over the full back's head, Tuckett secured and scored a smart try, Rowlands converting. Seaman soon afterwards scored.
Half-time Score— G. T. M.
Whitchurch..... *2 2 0
Maesteg 0 0 0
*One penalty.
The visitors restarted, and with good passing invaded the home territory. Rowlands cleared. The Maesteg forwards dribbling smartly, came to the attack again, only to be repelled. Llewellyn securing the ball, worked his way through the visitors, and Tuckett receiving, scored after a dashing run. This was followed by another smart run by Llewellyn, who wriggled through his opponents, scoring. Whitchurch were now all over their opponents. John several times held too long and good opportunities were lost. The same player soon retrieved himself, and after a strong burst scored. Stephens, Evans, and Seaman were conspicuous for a well-designed dribble, the last named scoring. All the tries were unconverted.
Final Score— G. T. M.
Whitchurch..... *2 6 0
Maesteg 0 0 0
*One penalty.
RISCA v CRUMLIN.

On 26th February 1900 this write up appeared in The South Wales Daily News (below)

Down dropped.
TAFI'S WELL UNITED v WHITCHURCH.
Having been disappointed by the Cardiff Old Monktonians, Whitchurch arranged a match with Tafi's Well. Chard received from Stephens and dodged over with a smart try. Rowlands nearly converting. Resuming, Jarvis and Baxendale led a smart rush, but Rowlands with a fine run relieved. Hyde tackled well and prevented a score. Whitchurch soon came again, and after good passing Tom Llewellyn dropped a grand goal.
Final Score— G. T. M.
Whitchurch..... *1 1 0
Tafi's Well 0 0 0
*Dropped.
CWMCARN v CRUMLIN.

Here's a write up from an away game at Bridgend, 26th March 1900, The South Wales Daily News

BRIDGEND v WHITCHURCH.	
<p>At Bridgend in dull, cold weather on a firm ground. The teams fielded at 4.30. Whitchurch kicked off, and with quick, short passes got close to the Bridgend goal-line. The homesters warded off the attack, and fast open play followed amongst the forwards. The visitors' half was invaded, and after a tight tussle the Whitchurch forwards dribbled down the field, but the home full-back pluckily arrested their rush. Whitchurch, mainly through sterling play by their forwards, kept up the pressure, until long kicks by the Bridgend backs brought relief, and the home forwards rushed a minor. Bridgend were now doing the attacking, the forwards playing dashing, and another minor followed from a free. The kick-out brought Whitchurch relief, and Bridgend had once more to defend, and were compelled to touch down. After a rush by the home forwards McCraith snapped up and scored a try, but Bennett could not convert. Very even play at the centre followed, both sets of forwards playing vigorously. A splendid rush by the home forwards took play on the Whitchurch line, a minor being soon conceded. Again Bridgend attacked through good passes, but could not break through the good defence.</p>	
Half-time Score--	
	G. T. M.
Bridgend	0 1 3
Whitchurch.....	0 0 2
<p>The second half opened in favour of Bridgend, whose forwards playing fast, attacked hotly, and Griffiths secured a try which Pennell made a fine attempt to convert. Then came a loose rush by Whitchurch, who were awarded a free kick in a favourable position, which however failed. Whitchurch afterwards wheeled a scrummage in fine style and again attacked, but were driven back to halfway, where scrambling play took place for a considerable time. Then the Bridgend forwards pressed in a combined rush, but the good tackling of the Whitchurch backs kept them out, and they were eventually driven back to the home half. Bridgend, however, again attacked, and after repeated rushes McCraith got over. Jenkin Matthews converted. Whitchurch pressed and missed an excellent chance of scoring, but soon afterwards Amos got over and a goal resulted.</p>	
Final Score--	
	G. T. M.
Bridgend	1 2 4
Whitchurch.....	1 0 0
REMARKS.	
<p>The game was fast, but the play was chiefly confined to the forwards, who brought off some nice bits of smart footwork. The home team held a big advantage at half and deserved their win, although the visitors several times attacked and lost a good number of chances.</p>	

Towards the end of the season, the team for an away match at Pontyclun was published in The Evening Express, 6th April 1900.

It was a tight game too, The Evening Express, 7th April 1900 (below and right).

PONTYCLUN V. WHITCHURCH.
 Played at Pontyclun. Referee, Mr. R. W. John, Cardiff. Whitchurch kicked off, and Harris retaliated with a fine kick and got the ball on the visitors' ground, and after some scrums the visitors rushed the ball back on the home ground, but were soon pushed back, and got close on the visitors' goal-line. The ball was now rushed up by Whitchurch, and for a short time play was kept on the home ground, but after some time the ball was taken on the visitors' ground.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Pontyclun	0	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

On the re-start Pontyclun kicked off, the ball being rushed on the home ground. Pontyclun then gradually got the ball on the visitors' ground, and for some time kept them in close quarters. The visitors again rushed the ball to mid-field, where play remained for some time. Pontyclun again seemed as if

WHITCHURCH V. PONTYCLUN.
 At Pontyclun. Whitchurch: Back, J. Rugman; three-quarter backs, T. John, F. Boothby, T. Llewellyn, and J. Tuckett; half-backs, P. Chard and J. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer, B. Wiles, F. Seaman, A. Moos, J. Stephens, A. Chappell, W. Evans, and W. Amos.

MALLETT SHIELD—SEMI-FINAL.

AY, APRIL 7, 1900

they would score, but they were kept back splendidly by the visitors, who kept the ball on dangerous ground for a short time, but were soon pushed back, and were nearly crossing the line several times.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Pontyclun	0	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

REMARKS.
 The teams seemed very equally matched, and it was almost impossible to say which was the better team of the two, and some very good play was witnessed.

RUGBY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Easter tour that year saw three Chard brothers, Jack, Peter and Samuel, playing for Whitchurch at Chard (Somerset). The other brother, James, who had also played for Whitchurch, was clearly unavailable, The Evening Express 12th April 1900

WHITCHURCH V. ST. ANDREW'S.

This match, which aroused a lot of enthusiasm, was played on the ground of the former on Good Friday in rather windy weather. Whitchurch won the toss, and St. Andrew's started against the wind. Whitchurch muffed, and a scrum was formed at the home 25. Solomon relieved to half-way, where several forward rushes took place, and Mawer, picking up, attempted to pass to Thomas, but Adams, rushing between, intercepted, and went over with a nice try, which was not converted. Nothing more was scored up to half-time. After the re-start, St. Andrew's went strong, and Stockton, eluding the opposing backs, scored a beautiful try from his own 25. W. Thomas made a very good but ineffectual shot at goal. During the second half Salmon assisted the forwards, and Rudmay did duty as full back. The change proved a wise one; for, although playing with the wind in their favour, the Whitchurch front rank in the first half showed a want of cohesion, and were consequently, outmanœuvred. But the presence of Salmon had the desired effect, and the forwards greatly improved, so much so that they did better against the wind than when it was in their favour. A hard tussle resulted in a draw.

Final score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	0
St. Andrew's	0	1	0

Mr. Jere Blake was the referee.

BRISTOL V. PENYGRAIG.

The Whitchurch team tour in Somerset during Easter, playing Chard on Saturday, Cheddar Valley on Easter Monday. The following will represent Whitchurch:—Back, D. Rowlands (captain); three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and F. Boothby; half-backs, Jack Chard and P. Chard; forwards (from), V. Taylor, B. Wiles, E. Boyer, W. Evans, F. Seaman, J. Stephens, W. Amos, J. Rugman, A. Chappell, and S. Chard.

CARDIFF FOOTBALL CLUB.
 CARDIFF ARMS PARK.
 BARBARIANS V. CARDIFF, Saturday, April 14th 1900. Kick-off 3.30 p.m.

Then straight back into it at home against St Andrew's, The Evening Express, 14th April 1900. (left)

Another seasons end attraction for local supporters was this representative match against a select Cardiff XV, 20th April 1900, The Evening Express

The result being shown in The Evening Express on 23rd April 1900 (below)

MR. J. BLAKE'S FIFTEEN V. WHITCHURCH.			
Final score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Mr. Blake's Fifteen	4	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

EBBW VALE V. PONTNEWYDD.
Played at Ebbw Vale in summer-like weather.

In what was probably a season's finale this was the Whitchurch team picked to play against Taffs Well, published in The Evening Express, 27th April 1900.

This is how it went, 30th April 1900, The South Wales Daily News

So, while players are just thinking of starting training again the 1900 AGM was held once again at The Fox and Hounds, 17th July 1900, The South Wales Daily News.

MR. J. BLAKE'S XV. V. WHITCHURCH.
Mr. J. Blake, the Welsh international forward, will take a strong fifteen to play his old team, Whitchurch, on the latter's ground. Kick-on at four p.m. Teams:—Mr. Blake's XV.: Back, Neville Thomas; ahree-quarter backs, A. M. Ricketts, E. G. Nicholls, C. Biggs, and W. Williams; half-backs, J. Williams and F. Stockden; forwards, J. Blake (captain), W. Phillips, F. Hines, G. Dobson, W. Neill, Wheeler, L. George, and W. M'Intyre. Whitchurch: Back, D. J. Boots; three-quarter backs (selected from), D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, T. John, F. Boothby, and W. Salman; half-backs, P. Chard (captain) and J. Chard; forwards (selected from), V. Taylor, W. Amos, J. Stevens, E. Boyer, T. Holtham, J. Rugman, B. Wiles, F. Seaman, and A. Moss.

MOUNTAIN ASH V. SWANSEA

WHITCHURCH V. TAFF'S WELL UNITED.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Healy; three-quarter backs, T. John, D. T. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, and F. Boothby; half-backs, P. Chard, (captain) and J. Chard; forwards, (selected from) V. Taylor, E. Boyer, J. Stephens, J. Rugman, B. Wiles, T. Holtham, W. Salmon, A. Chappell, and W. Amos. Referee, Mr. R. W. John, Welsh Football Union.

EBBW VALE V. PONTNEWYDD

WHITCHURCH v. TAFF'S WELL.
At Whitchurch. The meeting of these local rivals caused much interest. The visitors were strong forward, and with the wind in their favour pressed for some time. Thomas, by a tricky run, took play close to the home line. Then the homesters, by smart passing, attacked, but the Taff's Well defence was sound and prevented a score.

Half-time Score—			
	G.	T.	M.
Taff's Well	0	0	2
Whitchurch	0	0	1

From the restart play became fast and exciting, and each line was visited in turn. Eventually Llewellyn scored for the homesters, Healy failing at goal. For some time the pressure was kept up, and the visitors' defence was sorely tested. Their backs cleared by good kicking and play came to the centre. Taffs Well became dangerous for a time but could not score.

Final Score—			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	3
Taffs Well	0	0	2

LLANDILO v. SWANSEA.

16, C. Spiller 4, and D. Lewis 0; total, 89.

FOOTBALL.

WHITCHURCH CLUB.

The annual meeting of the above club was held on Saturday at the Fox and Hounds Hotel. Mr W. Evans presided. The report for last season was very satisfactory in every respect, the club, it was stated, being free from any debt. It was decided to ask Mr J. H. Cory, J.P., to again become president, and the following officers with a strong committee were appointed:—Captain, Mr E. Boyer; vice-captain, Mr J. Stephens; treasurer, Mr G. T. Bennett; hon. secretary, Mr D. Davies; assistant hon. secretary, Mr J. Evans.

So here's an interesting prelude to the season, The South Wales Daily News, 3rd September 1900. Such was the interest that Whitchurch required a trial for player selection, it also seems that the 2nd XV that we read about years earlier had been disbanded and now there was sufficient interest to bring it back. The prospects for the season ahead looked good.

material available for a good team... average of former years.

WHITCHURCH.

The Whitchurch team on Saturday held their trial match, and there was a good muster of promising recruits; in fact, such a goodly number presented themselves that it is seriously thought of now forming a second fifteen. The play in general was good, and the committee hope that with a leavening of the young players and last year's talent to place a strong fifteen on the field. Next Saturday the season is to be commenced in earnest, when Mr J. Blake, the Welsh International and an old Whitchurch player, will pit a strong Cardiff fifteen against the locals.

St. Peter's, Cardiff.—The St. Peter's Club had a practice at Roath Park on Saturday, when a good number turned out.

St Andrew's (Cardiff) v. Vice-Captain's Team.— Played at Maindy Barracks on Saturday, and after a keen game ended in a win for the Vice-Captain's fifteen by a goal and a try to nil.

5th September 1900, The South Wales Daily News. If you fancied a trial with Cardiff this was your chance, alternatively, just below, the Grand Football Match might be more attractive, 4d (pence) admission.

CARDIFF FOOTBALL CLUB.—Season tickets are now issued as follows:—5s, Queen-street, members, tickets every evening between 5 and 7 o'clock except Wednesdays and Saturdays; Angel entrance to Cardiff Arms Park—Ground 5s and workmen's 2s 6d tickets, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings between 5 and 7 o'clock, and Saturday at 2 p.m.—Chas. S. Arthur, Secretary.

GRAND FOOTBALL MATCH Saturday, 8 p.m.
8th. Mr J. Blake's (Cardiff) XV. v. Whitchurch, at Whitchurch. Kick off 4.15 p.m. Admission 4d. 803

The team sheet for the 'grand' match was published in The Evening Express on 7th September 1900 with some superstars in the Cardiff side. On 11th September 1900 the paper's sports columnist gave an after match review of the Cardiff side.

MR. J. BLAKE'S XV. V. WHITCHURCH.

Local football begins by Mr. J. Blake (the Welsh international and Cardiff forward) taking a strong team to play Whitchurch, where a good game is anticipated. The teams are as follow:—Mr. Blake's XV.: Back, H. B. Winfield; three-quarter backs, E. G. Nicholls, F. Lewis, C. Biggs, and W. Williams; half-backs, Neville Thomas and C. Kestell; forwards, J. Blake (captain), G. Dobson, W. Neil, J. Wheeler, W. M'Intyre, F. Box, F. Hines, and L. George. Whitchurch: Back, L. Stevens; three-quarter backs, C. J. Jones, T. John, T. Llewellyn, and J. Williams; half-backs, G. Stevens and W. Lewis; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), J. Stephens, W. Evans, W. Amos, B. Wiles, A. Chappell, E. A. Marsh, and Horatio Brown. Referee, Mr. Sid Nicholls, W.F.U. Kick-off, 4.15 p.m.

The football match at Whitchurch on Saturday disclosed one pleasing fact, and that is day disclosed one pleasing fact—that E. G. Nicholls is in rare form this year. I am told that "Gwyn" played a remarkable game, although it must be remembered that he was only opposed by second or third rate men, and in a case of that sort a first-class player naturally shows to greater advantage. Still, the fact was disclosed that the Cardiff captain was pretty fit, and that is all that one wishes, for his cleverness is undoubted. The Cardiff team, by the way, is likely to be composed very much the same as last year, although the forwards may be strengthened by the inclusion of that clever forward, Tom Dobson, who has decided to turn out again. The backs will be very much as usual. Winfield is alright again, and will take his old place as custodian. Huzzey and Nicholls will be on the right wing, but the left wing seems uncertain. Ricketts, I am sorry to hear, has decided not to turn out again, but W. Jones, the clever little left centre, will be again available. It may, therefore, be that Jones will take his old place in the centre, with Bush on his wing.

I am very glad to hear that Pontypridd has

Transport difficulties almost stopped us in our tracks for this one, but GWR laid on a special for an away match at Crumlin, not the best way to start a game, 17th September 1900, The South Wales Daily News

CRUMLIN v WHITCHURCH.

A mishap having occurred at Newport the visitors arrived somewhat late, but the G.W.R. ran a special from Newport. The teams lined out, Crumlin—Back, Colman; three-quarter backs, James, Thomas Williams, and Lewis; half-backs, Jones and Bennett; forwards Tovey, Dawes, Marsh, Roberts, Hodges, West, Evans, and another. Whitchurch—Back, Williams; three-quarter backs, C J Jones, D J Tuckett, T John, and Llewellyn; half-backs, L Stevens and T Stevens; forwards, E Boyer (capt.), Glendenning, W Amos, B Miles, Seaman, T Holtham, W Evans, and E A Marsh. From the start play was even, but by smart work Dawes scored. No goal resulted. From the restart the visitors played well and attacked. Good play by a homester relieved, but a strong burst by Seaman nearly ended in a score. Crumlin attacked and Bennett scored, no goal resulting.

	Final score.	G. T. M.
Crumlin.....	0 3 0	
Whitchurch.....	0 0 0	

BRYNMAWR v CAERPHILLY.

At Brynmawr in splendid weather and before a

An early season commentary came from the sports columnist of The Evening Express who seemed happy to have Gloucester teams hosting those from South Wales, 18th September 1900.

There will be a larger influx of Welsh teams into East Gloucestershire this season than probably in any previous one. Gloucester receive visits from Cardiff, Penarth, Newport, Swansea, Treorky, Llanelly, and Treherbert; Lydney entertain at one time or another during the season Roath, Risca, Pillgwenlly, Whitchurch, Crumlin, Newport Seconds, and Chepstow St. Mary's, while the seconds meet Maindee. Cheltenham are booked to meet quite a number of teams from the Principality, such as Pillgwenlly, Canton, Penylan, Mackintosh, Pontymister, Whitchurch, and Romilly. Cinderford and Stroud also have a number of Welsh fixtures. Each season Gloucestershire in its football becomes more and more associated with Wales. By the way, the Gloucestershire Rugby Union are returning once again to the old system of trial matches to aid in selecting the county fifteen, and next month teams representing South v. North will meet at Gloucester.

On 1st October 1900 The South Wales Daily News published this short update on the Taffs Well game.

WHITCHURCH v TAFFS WELL.	
At Whitchurch. Immense interest was taken in this match, Taff's Well having drawn with Penygraig on Saturday last.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Whitchurch.....	0 2 0
Taff's Well.....	0 0 0
TONDU v PORTECAWL.	

Another train ride for the club, the team for an away game at Tondy, 5th October 1900, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. TONDU.	
At Tondy. Meet at Great Western Railway station 1.10 p.m. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tucketh, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, George Stephens and J. Chard; forwards, J. Stephens (captain), R. Wiles, Wamos, T. Holtham, W. Seaman, W. Evans, W. Adams, and F. Seaman.	
ROATH V. PONTYMOILE.	

Presumably, these games were for the 1sts and one for the 2nds, 15th October 1900, The South Wales Daily News (right)

Pontymoile.....	0 3 0
Pontymister.....	0 0 3
WHITCHURCH v GRANGE STARS.	
At Whitchurch.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Whitchurch.....	1 0 0
Grange.....	0 1 0
DINAS POWIS v PENYLAN.	
Played on Dinas Powis Common in wet weather.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Penylan.....	0 3 0
Dinas Powis.....	1 1 0
ST FAGAN'S v CANTON VILLA.	
At St. Fagan's. The home team had all the game in their favour, and won easily by 4 goals 2 tries to nil.	
LYDNEY v CROSS KEYS.	
At Cross Keys.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Lydney.....	0 3 0
Cross Keys.....	1 0 0
PENTYRCH v TREHERBERT 'QUINS.	
At Pentyrch. Jones, Gray, and Evans scored for Pentyrch.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Pentyrch.....	0 3 0
Treherbert 'Quins.....	0 0 0
MACHEN v WHITCHURCH.	
At Machen.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Machen.....	3 2 0
Whitchurch.....	0 1 0
MALPAS v USK.	

On 22nd October 1900 The South Wales Daily News published the score for the home match against Penylan (below)

WHITCHURCH v PENYLAN.	
At Whitchurch.	
Final Score—	G. T. M.
Whitchurch.....	0 3 0
Penylan.....	0 1 0
BLAINA v CROSS KEYS.	

On 26th October 1900 this team was published in The Evening Express for the home game against St Andrew's

ST. ANDREW'S V. WHITCHURCH.	
At Whitchurch. St. Andrew's: Back, G. Thomas; three-quarter backs, W. H. Jones (captain), F. H. Stockden, B. John, and E. A. Arnott; half-backs, R. David and W. Fitzgerald; forwards, W. Greenslade, W. A. Smith, J. Watts, J. Connel, P. E. Rumbelow, F. Smith, F. Hookaway, and J. Davies. Break leaves Woodville Hotel at 2.45 p.m. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, J. Williams, P. Chard, T. Llewellyn, and D. J. Tuckett; half-backs, George Stephens and J. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), J. Stephens, B. Wiles, W. Adams, W. Salmon, T. Holtham, J. B. Glendenning, W. Amos, and W. Evans.	
MONMOUTHSHIRE LEAGUE v GLAMORGAN	

The report on the St Andrew's match was published in The Evening Express on 27th October 1900.

WHITCHURCH V. ST. ANDREW'S.			
At Whitchurch, before a fair attendance. Boyer commenced, and the visitors by a pretty combined work soon attacked. Whitchurch relieved by a good dribble. Stephens scoring. No goal resulted. From the re-start play for some time ruled even. Llewellyn eventually kicked down, and Tuckett fielding smartly, scored a splendid try. Stephens converted. The Saints from the kick-out attacked. Stockten nearly ending in a score.			
Half-time score. G. T. M.			
Whitchurch	1	1	0
St. Andrew's	0	0	0
The visitors re-started, and play was for a time fast and open. A smart sprint by Boyer put the Saints' line in danger. A splendid dash by Jones relieved and John made a smart run, which placed Whitchurch on the defensive. Amos cleared by a strong run. The Cardiffians returned to the attack, John dropping for goal. Davies dashed up and scored the kick at goal failed. Play continued to be of a give and take character, and at the conclusion was much faster and most exciting. No further score resulted.			
Final score: G. T. M.			
Whitchurch	1	1	0
St. Andrews,	0	0	0
GENDERFORD V. ROATH.			

This would seem to have been considered to be a Whitchurch win having scored the only 'goal', an away game at Chepstow, 5th November 1900, The South Wales Daily News.

Croesyceiliog	0	0	1
CHEPSTOW ST MARY'S v WHITCHURCH.			
At Chepstow. The game opened with fast play, and Rust got over grandly with a try for the Saints, but Llewellyn returned with a dropped goal. Resuming played ranged even till near the close, when Rust eluding his opponents after a long run planted in the corner. The try was not converted.			
Final Score--			
St. Mary's.....	0	2	0
Whitchurch.....	*1	0	0
*Dropped.			
TREORKY RESERVES v PENYRENGLYN.			

Having lost track of a Whitchurch 2nd team we now have a team sheet for an away match against Llandaff (2nds), a measure of the club's development at that time. The Evening Express 9th November 1900.

serve, T. Germain. Referee, Mr. F. Pritchard.
Whitchurch Reserves v. Llandaff.—At Llandaff. Reserves: Back, W. Richards; three-quarter backs, W. Williams, A. Evans, W. Jones, and Harry Brown; half-backs, W. Lewis (captain) and W. Evans; forwards, W. Lovell, W. Russell, W. Holtham, G. Pitcher, D. John, F. Seaman, J. Pritchard, and Horatio Brown.
Llandaff: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, H. Massy, G. Day, T. Howe, and N. Rooney; half-backs, A. Howells and B. Evans; forwards, W. Pallott, W. King, G. Rolfs (captain), T. Dare, F. Richards, O. Thomas, S. Wakelin, and E. Churchward. Kick-off at 3.30 p.m.
Loudoun Reserves v. Grange Star Seconds.—

Meanwhile the newspaper showed that the 1sts were home to Grange Stars...

It ended, Whitchurch 2 Tries; Grange, 1 Goal, but the papers stating that Whitchurch won "by the narrow margin of a goal to a try".

WHITCHURCH V. GRANGE STARS.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, J. Williams, D. Rowlands, T. Llewellyn, and D. J. Tuckett; half-backs, George Stephens and P. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Evans, W. Amos, W. Salman, W. Adams, B. Wiles, J. B. Glendenning, and T. Holtham.
Roath Crescents v. Mr. Wilson's Team.—At

... and another village team, Whitchurch Crescents were home to Cardiff Crescents

Richards, J. Macdonald, and C. Ashton.
Whitchurch Crescents v. Cardiff Crescents.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, M. Nicholas; three-quarter backs, E. C. Burch, J. Davey, F. Hopkins, and W. E. Bevan (captain); half-backs, D. Price and J. Evans; forwards, T. Killin, A. Morgan, J. Thompson, J. Phillips, D. Morris, A. Lewis, F. Whitcombe, and D. Porter. Cardiff: Back, M. Baugh; three-quarter backs, G. Mitchell, Godolphin, Burrinstone, and F. Jones; half-backs, F. Mayne and J. King; forwards, C. Griffiths, B. Williams, C. T. Selfe (captain), C. A. Philp, T. Marshall, R. Ing, D. Jones, and Brewer. Cardiff to meet at the corner of North-road at 2.45 sharp.
Grange Crescents v. St. Fagan's.—At St. Fagan's. St. Fagan's: Back, P.

On 16th November 1900 The Evening Express published the Whitchurch team for a home match against Lydney

Lewis, and E. Henry.
WHITCHURCH V. LYDNEY.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, J. Williams, T. Llewellyn, D. Rowlands, and D. J. Tuckett; half-backs, George Stevens and P. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Amos, W. Evans, J. Stephens, W. Salmon, J. B. Glendenning, W. Holtham, and T. Holtham.

At Llandaff Fields results showed Canton Quins, 2 Tries; Whitchurch Reserves, nil – 17th December 1900 The Evening Express

24th November 1900, The Evening Express published this brief report on the home game against Roath

WHITCHURCH V. ROATH.

At Whitchurch. Boyer commenced for the villagers, and Roath at once attacked, the latter kicking a penalty in the first few minutes. Roath continued to hold the upper hand, and scored an unconverted try. Play now ruled more even, when Whitchurch attacked, but they could not get through. Roath wheeled and rushed to the centre. Day, fielding nicely, returned to the centre.

Half-time score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Roath	1	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

†Penalty.

The visitors re-started. Whitchurch attacked with vigour and Adams passed to Boyer, who got over. Then Tuckett, with a lovely run, dashed down, but was ruled outside, a touch-in-goal only being allowed. Whitchurch continued to press, until at length Adams scored. P. Chard converting with a grand shot. A misfield by one of the homesters let in Roath right on time.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Roath	1	2	0
Whitchurch	1	0	0

†Penalty.

The Evening Express sports columnist reviewed the fortunes of Roath and Grange, but, Whitchurch had a creditable mention, 27th November 1900.

There is desperation in local football circles just now, I believe—desperation at the fact that Roath looks like winning both cup and league. Their greatest rivals so far have been Grange Stars, who have given Roath, perhaps, their hottest game this season. Grange were defeated, it is true, but they have hopes of reversing the verdict when next they meet. They have playing for them, by the way, three Cardiff players in C. Lewis, "of the Green family"; Alf James, the forward; and my old friend Jack Evans. Roath lay no such pretensions to class, but they are a good, sound little team that stick together well, and will be sure to take a lot of beating by the best of them. On Saturday last they defeated Whitchurch on the Whitchurch ground, this being the first home match Whitchurch has lost this season.

Then on 30th November 1900 The Evening Express published the team selection for the match against Mackintosh

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF MACKINTOSH.

At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. Rowlands; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, J. Chard, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and George Stephens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Amos, J. Stephens, W. Evans, W. Adams, W. Holtham, T. Holtham, and F. Richards.

CANTON V. PILL HARRIERS (NEWPORT).

On 1st December 1900 The Evening Express published a match report for the game against Mackintosh.

**WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF
MACKINTOSH.**

Played at Whitchurch. The homesters commenced operations, and soon attacked. By good fielding the Macks relieved. The villagers were not to be denied, however. Jack Williams scored a smart try. The Whitchurch men continued the aggressive. A grand save by Priest, however, averted disaster. Llewellyn eventually secured, and, after a strong burst, scored.

Half-time score:	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	2	0
Mackintosh	0	0	0

The Cardiff men re-started, and by vigorous forward work attacked. Jack Chardrel relieved, and then Stephens started a bout of passing, a knock-on spoiling the effort. Judicious kicking by the Mackintosh backs enabled them to again attack. Their forwards wheeled splendidly. Williams making a daring save. Adams headed a rush, which relieved the home line. Jack Williams, fielding nicely, made a strong dash, but failed to penetrate the visitors' sound defence. The Mackintosh forwards again asserted themselves, a fine dribble taking them close up, one of the backs sending in a wide shot at goal. Tuckett next came into prominence for a smart kick to touch. From here Amos, Richards, and Stephens took the ball out of danger. Llewellyn put the leather in touch near the Macks' line, where play ended.

Final score:	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	2	0
Mackintosh	0	0	0

The next game was at Pontymister, the team selections published in The Evening Express on 7th December 1900

PONTYMISTER V. WHITCHURCH.

At Pontymister. Pontymister: Back, A. Gittins; three-quarter backs, W. Vaughan, A. Osmond, G. Morgan, and W. Carroll; half-backs, R. Jones and F. Francis; forwards, "Buller" Williams (captain), W. J. Lewis, L. Phillips, H. Wallace, Jim Widdick, E. Gunter, J. Evans, and P. Lynn. Whitchurch: Back, W. Williams; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, B. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and George Stephens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Amos, W. Adams, J. Stephens, J. B. Glendenning, T. Holtham, W. Holtham, and F. Richards.

TROEDYRHIW V. CRUMLIN.

It was a tough day too, the home side just sealing a win at the end, The South Wales Daily News 10th December 1900.

WHITCHURCH v PONTYMISTER.

An interesting match took place between Pontymister and Whitchurch at Pontymister. The homesters had a weak team. Whitchurch were without Bowyer. Pontymister were first to score, W. J. Lewis getting a good try. The visiting backs were noticed for smart play, and J. Williams nicely dropped a goal.

Play was pretty fast in the second half. Five minutes from the finish Wallace scored a try for Pontymister.

Final Score—	G.	T.	M.
Pontymister.....	*1	1	0
Whitchurch	0	1	0

* Dropped.

A busy time for the club, a 2nd team match being scheduled at Llandaff Fields against Canton Harlequins, the teams being published in The Evening Express, 15th December 1900.

Throughout this, if you ever thought of what revenue might have been taken at 'the gate' this valuable little snippet reveals a lot, 15th December 1900, The Evening Express (right)

(£1 20p in today's money)

He needed a rest anyhow, reported by the referee in a game against Mackintosh, just in time for Christmas, 21st December 1900, The Evening Express.

This is what the load was over Christmas 1900, The Evening Express 21st December 1900.

Western Railway at 1.15 p.m. sharp.
 Canton Harlequins v. Whitchurch Reserves.—
 At Llandaff Fields. Harlequins: Back, S. Lewis;
 three-quarter backs, J. Williams, J. Summers,
 J. Mills, and S. Williams; half-backs, E. Bur-
 nett and W. Ward; forwards, C. Hellings, C.
 Gallivar, W. Richards, H. Timms, H. Mander-
 son, W. Williams, B. Summers, and J. Cheek. 1
 Whitchurch Reserves: Back, W. Richards; 1
 three-quarter backs, W. Williams, H. Brown, W. 2
 Jones, and F. Seaman; half-backs, W. E. Lewis 2
 (captain) and W. Evans; forwards, W. Lovell, 2
 G. iteher, R. Richards, J. Pritchard, D. John, f
 B. Wiles, W. Russell, and J. Brown. 3
 Taff's Well v. Cardiff Loudouns.—At Taff's 3
 Well. Taff's Well: Back, Timothy; three- 1

Pontymister's gate against Whitchurch last Saturday amounted to 24s.

The most keen partisans of the Newport Club do not look with very rosy anticipation upon the team going through the

WHITCHURCH V. MACKINTOSH.

Upon the report of Mr. Francis, W. Evans, of Whitchurch, was suspended for one Saturday.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.

Whitchurch have a heavy Christmas programme, the following teams being met:—
 December 22, Cardiff Reserves, at Cardiff;
 December 25, St. Andrew's, at Whitchurch;
 December 26, Bridgend, at Bridgend; December
 29, Cheltenham, at Cheltenham. The following
 will represent Whitchurch: Back, J. Chard;
 three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn,
 E. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard
 and George Stephens; forwards (selected from),
 E. Boyer (captain), J. Stephens, W. Amds, W.
 Adams, F. Richards, T. Holtham, W. Holtham,
 J. B. Glendenning, and W. Evans.

WHITCHURCH RESERVES TEAM.

Whitchurch Reserves meet the following over the Christmas holidays:—December 22, Cardiff Windsors, at Whitchurch; December 25, Whitchurch Old Crocks, at Whitchurch; December 26, Lydney Hornets, at Whitchurch. Whitchurch Reserves: Back, W. Richards; three-quarter backs, W. Williams, A. Evans, W. Jones, and H. Brown; half-backs, W. E. Lewis (captain) and W. Evans; forwards (selected from), W. Lovell, D. John, W. Russell, R. Richards, T. Tuckett, F. Seaman, J. Brown, G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, and R. Taylor.

MARSTON V. GINDREFOED.

Here's a report on the Cardiff Reserves match played at The Arms Park, 22nd December 1900, The Evening Express.

A few days later this report on 27th December 1900 was printed on the Boxing Day, Bridgend match (below)

Morgan played very well for the visitors.

WHITCHURCH v. BRIDGEND.

At Bridgend. The homesters winning the toss elected to play from the Quarella end of the field. Bennett initiated, and manipulating well play was brought to the visitors' 25. Pratt secured and passed to McCraith, who unluckily muffed. Whitchurch soon took advantage of this, but their rush was stopped by McCraith. After a fine bout of passing McCraith crossed the line in fine style, but the try remained unconverted. A determined rush on the part of the visitors made matters look dangerous, but Hitt intercepted and brought the ball back to the 25 line. Llewellyn taking the pass from a scrum ran three-quarters the length of the field and crossed, which was nicely converted. From the kick-out the home pack again pressed. The visiting three-quarters, however, were playing in fine style.

Half-time Score—		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch		1	0	0
Bridgend		0	1	0

For some time after the restart play was very evenly balanced. Hitt after a scrum on the line crossed, but Pratt failed to convert. J. Jones secured near the centre and reached the goal line before he was brought down. McCraith securing again crossed. The home pack still continued to press, and Gregory securing on the visitors' 25 made matters look dangerous, but the ball was muffed. Shortly after Bennett secured and crossed.

Final Score—		G.	T.	M.
Bridgend		0	4	0
Whitchurch		1	0	0

CARDIFF RESERVES V. WHITCHURCH.

The above match was played on the Cardiff Arms Park. The teams were:—Whitchurch: Back, J. Chard; three-quarter backs, Tuckett, Llewellyn, John, and Williams; half backs, P. Chard and Stevens; forwards, Roger, Stephens, Arnot, Adams, Richards, T. Holtham, W. Holtham, and Glendinning. Reserves: Back, Winfield; threequarter backs, Ricketts, E. Jones; Whale, and Lewis; half backs, G. Hughes and A. Brown; forwards, Mitchell, T. Dobson, Edwards, Oung, Hart, Auckland, Hill, and Edwards. Cardiff started within a few minutes of the start. P. Lewis got away from a scrum and went in with the first try. The visiting full back failed at an attempt to field the ball, and the second try for Cardiff was the result. The home backs were altogether too smart for the Whitchurch men, and kept them on the defensive. A third try came in the extreme corner, and the visitors managed, by the aid of a kick down the field, which bulked Winfield to clear. A rush on the line was only just cleared by Ricketts. The Whitchurch forwards were now playing up, and gave the homesters a bit of work in defending. An attack by the Whitchurch backs ended in Tuckett making a poor shot for goal and directly afterwards the interval arrived.

Half-time score.		G.	T.	M.
Cardiff Reserves		0	3	0
Whitchurch		0	0	1

Whitchurch showed great improvement in their play on the resumption. An attack was set up on the Cardiff line. A smart bit of play on the part of the backs ended in the centre scoring behind the posts. A goal was the result. Ricketts and Wheeler brought relief to their side by a bit of passing along the wing, which looked like ending in a try. The Whitchurch backs, however, stopped within a few yards of the line. A lot of centre-field play followed. Ricketts eventually got off, but lost the ball when about to transfer to Whale. A penalty to Cardiff improved their position. By degrees Whitchurch worked to a little over the half-way line. Here a rush was started by the homesters, which ended in a scrum being formed on the line. Here Whitchurch were penalised for faulty play by the halves, and Winfield kicked a goal. Fast play followed, which hovered about the centre for some time. Again Whitchurch were penalised through their halves, and the kick by Winfield put Cardiff on the attack. Play again went to the centre, where Whitchurch were penalised. An exchange of kicks saw the ball come out to the wing, and Whale, kicking over the line, Ricketts followed up and scored. Winfield again failed to improve on the point. With play at the centre, the whistle sounded the final.

Final score.		G.	T.	M.
Cardiff Reserves		1	4	0
Whitchurch		1	0	1

REMARKS.

The game was not of a very high order. The Whitchurch halves played a faulty game, which fully deserved the goal registered against them.

GLAMORGAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Finally, after all the exertions, the end of year party took its toll, 31st December 1900, The South Wales Daily News

Bridgend		G. T. M.
CHELTENHAM v WHITCHURCH.		
At Cheltenham, before a good number of spectators. The following teams turned out:—		
Cheltenham—Back, Cotterell; three-quarter backs, Powell, Clauss, Champain, and Ellis; half-backs, Goddard and Brick; forwards, Fisher, Brandt, Craddock, Cox, Cotterell, Pike, Cossens, and Halling.		
Whitchurch—Back, John; three-quarter backs, Llewellyn, Evans, Boyer, and Williams; half-backs, Chard and Stevens; forwards, Amos, Russell, Richards, T. Holtom, W Holtom, Broad, Adams, and Glendenning.		
Cheltenham kicked off, and the game was started in the centre. Cheltenham were penalised, and a good kick put Whitchurch on the attack. Powell relieved with a kick to touch, and a good round of passing by the Cheltenham backs forced Whitchurch to touch down. From the drop-out Cheltenham still pressed, and after some pretty passing by Champain and Ellis, Pike obtained and scored the first try for Cheltenham. Powell failed with the kick.		
Half-time Score—		
Cheltenham.....	0	1 0
Whitchurch.....	0	0 0
After the interval Cheltenham commenced to attack, but in the ensuing play Whitchurch pressed. Cotterell relieved the pressure by kicking to touch in the centre. There the home backs did several good rounds of passing and tried very hard to score, but the Welshmen's defence was safe and play was again resumed in the centre. From now till the finish Cheltenham was pressing, but nothing farther was scored.		
Whitchurch was beaten in the three-quarter line, Champain and Clauss, Scotch international, playing a grand game for Obeltenham. The forwards were superior to the home eight, getting the ball out oftener and doing good work in the loose. It was a very stragling game from start to finish, and Cheltenham should have scored at least twice more.		
Final Score—		
Cheltenham.....	0	1 0
Whitchurch.....	0	0 0
NEWPORT 2nd v CWMBRAN.		

So, it was another demanding season and a welcome to the 20th century for the club. It wasn't as successful as the previous season, but as you have witnessed it was intense and demanding.

1901

It's the New Year and one of the early games was this one home to Penylan, the teams being published in The Evening Express, 11th January 1901

WHITCHURCH V. PENYLAN.	
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, B. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and G. Stevens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Adams, W. Evans, T. Holtham, W. Holtham, J. B. Glendenning, W. Amos, and F. Richards. Penylan: Back, Theo. Jones; three-quarter backs, W. Ashmore, C. Thomas, H. Davies, and M. Davies; half-backs, H. Hyde and D. Stevens; forwards, D. L. Evans (captain), J. Ll. Lewis, Alun Lewis, E. Harding, W. Rees, F. S. Coppock, H. S. Coppock, D. Owen, and Len Williams.	

Whitchurch Crescents are still going strong, The Evening Express published the team selections for their away match with Cardiff Crescents, 11th January 1901

Whitchurch Crescents v. Cardiff Crescents.— At Cardiff. Cardiff Crescents: Back, M. Nicholas; three-quarter backs, W. E. Bevan (captain), W. Llewellyn, F. Hopkins, and A. Lewis; half-backs, J. Phillips and Dai Price; forwards, E. Lloyd, D. Porter, D. John, A. Lovall, A. Blain, H. Mockford, J. Davey, and C. Webber.	
North Central Nomads v. Neath Wanderers.— At Neath. Nomads: Back, J. Tetley; three-	

Here again, there was more evidence of collaboration between local teams, evidently the Whitchurch/Penylan match didn't happen for some reason and the club 'lent' their ground to the Crescents for their match and it went well too. The Evening Express, 12th January 1901

WHITCHURCH CRESCENTS V. CARDIFF CRESCENTS.	
Having been disappointed by the Penylan team, the Whitchurch club kindly lent their enclosure for this game. There was a fair attendance when Llewellyn started for the home team, and from the return the same player secured and dropped a splendid goal. The home team continued on the aggressive, Richards scoring, but no goal resulted. Inter-passing between Phillips, Davey, Llewellyn, and A. Lewis ended in the latter scoring after a dashing run. The kick was this time successful. Nothing further was scored until after half-time. Upon resuming Bevan was conspicuous for several dashing runs. Eventually Llewellyn got through twice and John once for the home team, one try being converted. The Cardiffians now played up in a more dashing style, Gibbon scoring a smart try after a fine run by Salman.	
Final score:	G. T. M.
Whitchurch Crescents	*2 3 0
Cardiff Crescents	0 1 0
*One dropped.	

The Evening Express published the team selected for the home match with Chepstow St Mary's, 18th January 1901

...at the same time printing the score from a previous match Whitchurch, 3 Goals, 4 Tries; Old Monktonians, nil.

WHITCHURCH V. CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.	
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, B. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and George Stevens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Adams, T. Holtham, W. Evans, J. Stephens, J. B. Glendenning, W. Holtham, and F. Richards.	
TAFF'S WELL DISTRICT V. PONTYPRIDD.	

The Chepstow match ending up: Whitchurch, 1 Goal, 3 Tries; Chepstow St. Mary's, nil

Towards the end of January 1901 the entire country was 'holding their breath', the monarch at that time, Queen Victoria, was not in good health and things were about to change.

On 30th January 1901 The Evening Express published this update for Whitchurch but summing up the mood of the entire country.

Out of respect for the monarch all sports matches scheduled for this period were cancelled.

WHITCHURCH.

At an adjourned meeting of the Whitchurch Parish Council last evening it was decided to place upon the minutes of the council a resolution recording "its deep sense of the loss the country has sustained by the death of the beloved Queen Victoria, whose reign of 64 years has been one of unsullied blessing to the vast Empire over which she ruled," and that the respectful congratulations of the council be offered to his Majesty King Edward VII. on his succession to the throne. It was also decided that the council should attend the memorial service at the Whitchurch Church at 2.30 on Saturday afternoon, and that the members of the school board, the representatives on the district council and the fire brigade be invited to accompany them.

PONTYPRIDD AND RHONDDA

The Evening Express published the team selections for the Whitchurch away match at Penarth, 8th February 1901

The final score here was Whitchurch, 1 Try; Canton, nil.

PENARTH V. WHITCHURCH.
At Penarth. Penarth: Back, F. C. Tillet; three-quarter backs, E. J. Whale, R. C. Thomas, A. N. Other, and H. F. Shattock; half-backs, R. A. Gibbs and N. Thomas; forwards, F. Kirby (captain), H. Hutchings, J. Beer, E. Hamilton, W. Matthews, J. Thomas, W. M. Kemp, and C. Pavey. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, B. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, G. Stevens and P. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), J. Stephens, W. Adams, W. Evans, T. Holtham, F. Richards, W. Russell, and D. John.

LLANISHEN V. LLANDAFF.

The Evening Express published the team selected for the Whitchurch away match at Taffs Well, 22nd February 1901

WHITCHURCH V. TAFF'S WELL.
At Taff's Well. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, B. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, George Stevens and P. Chard; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Adams, B. Wiles, J. Stephens, W. Evans, W. Russell, T. Holtham, and F. Richards.

GILFENYDD V. BLAENAVON.

A St David's Day issue of The Evening Express had the team selections for Canton game at Whitchurch, 1st March 1901

The final score here was Whitchurch, 1 Try; Canton, nil.

CANTON V. WHITCHURCH.
At Whitchurch. Canton: Back, W. Thomas; three-quarter backs, J. Huntley (captain), G. Bird, C. Martin, and J. Summers; half-backs, W. John and J. James; forwards, E. Lovring, D. Triggs, J. Harding, A. Short, E. Harding, J. Morgan, W. Richards, and E. John. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, B. John, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and G. Stevens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Evans, W. Adams, P. Norton, J. Shepherd, T. Holtham, F. Richards, and W. Russell.

OLD MONKTONIANS V. LLANDAFF.

We've seen some of the logistical issues that teams faced when travelling at these times, here's one that would have caused a lot of frustration, The Evening Express, 9th March 1901

start to finish.

Whitchurch v. Pontymister.
"NO ROOM IN THE TRAIN."
Pontymister were due to play Whitchurch at Whitchurch to-day, but they failed to put in an appearance. The secretary of the Pontymister club wired the secretary of the Whitchurch club in the afternoon, to the effect that the Pontymister team could find no room in the train, and, therefore, could not make the journey.

PILL HARRIERS V. TREDEGAR.

The Evening Express published the team selected for the home match with Bridgend, 22nd March 1901

WHITCHURCH V. BRIDGEND.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, D. Evans, W. Salmon, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and G. Stevens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), J. Stephens, W. Evans, W. Adams, F. Richards, T. Holtham, W. Russell, and F. Leaman.

GILFACH COCH V. GOMERE VAYN.

The Evening Express published this report for the home game against Old Monktonians, Whitchurch having changed half the team for the match. 30th March 1901.

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.
 Played at Whitchurch. The homesters played seven substitutes, and the visitors commenced with the wind against them. From the outset Whitchurch attacked, and Tuckett was nearly over. The score was not long in coming. Brown scoring smartly, and Chard converting. A brilliant individual effort by Llewellyn put the homesters further ahead, and half time arrived with them leading by eight points. Upon resuming, the Monks were seen to better advantage. Several good attempts were made, but they failed to score. Williams added a grand try for the homesters. Final score:—Whitchurch, one goal, two tries; Monktonians, nil.

The Evening Express provided the team selection for Whitchurch 2nd team fixtures for what seems to be the Easter period since 3 games are mentioned. It seems that matches are to be played on Good Friday, the Saturday and (Easter) Monday, 4th April 1901

WHITCHURCH RESERVES V. CANTON VILLA.
 Whitchurch Reserves: Back, W. Richards; three-quarter backs, H. Brown, A. Evans, W. Jones, and W. Williams; half-backs, W. Salmon and J. Chard; forwards, J. Kent, W. Amos, D. Seaman, V. Taylor, A. Moss, D. John, D. Samuel, and D. Llewellyn. On Saturday they play Llanishen and on Monday Machen.
MR. P. CHARD'S TEAM V. MR. T. GOODFELLOW'S TEAM.
 At Llandaff Yard. Mr. Chard's Team: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, D. Evans, F. Pitcher, and A. Evans; half-backs, J. Chard and P. Chard (captain); forwards, F. Richards, W. Amos, T. Holtham, J. Brown, D. Seaman, W. Evans, W. Russell, and B. Albion.

You'll notice that Peter Chard has been playing regularly for Whitchurch 1sts, occasionally in partnership with his younger brother Jack (John) Chard, at the same time these men were also playing for Llandaff Yard, their home club and this cutting also show a representative match between a select Peter Chard XV and a Mr Goodfellow's team.

Whitchurch followed up with a Past vs Present match, the team sheets looking like this, giving us a good idea who was representing the club back then, The Evening Express, 19th April 1901

WHITCHURCH PAST V. PRESENT.
 At Whitchurch. Kick-off at four p.m.
 Past: Back, S. Evans; three-quarter backs, Jack Chard, W. Salmon, F. Boothby, and J. C. Evans; half-backs, Jim Chard and T. Howells; forwards (selected from), V. Taylor, D. Seaman, W. Stevens, J. Kent, J. Glendenning, D. T. Evans, Bert Wiles, and E. Stephens. Present: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, W. Richards, E. D. Richards, and W. Williams; halfbacks, P. Chard and G. Stevens; forwards (selected from), E. Boyer (captain), J. Stephens, W. Evans, F. Richards, F. Seaman, W. Russell, T. Holtham, and D. John.
TAFF'S WELL V. MACHEN.
 At Taff's Well. Taff's Well: Back, W. Baxen-

The Evening Express published the team selections for the 1st team home game with Chepstow St. Mary's, 4th April 1901, an Easter fixture

WHITCHURCH V. CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.
Whitchurch: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, D. Evans, T. Llewellyn, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and G. Stevens; forwards (selected from), T. Holtham, T. Richards, W. Russell, W. Adams, W. Evans, S. Seaman, and T. Bunn. On Monday they play Lydney.

PENYLAN FOOTBALL CLUB

The Evening Express published the final score for matches on 6th April among them being "Whitchurch Reserves, 2 Goals, 1 Try; Canton Villa, 1 Try"

While 2nds were having a busy time of it, The Evening Express published the final score for a 1st team match on 9th April against Lydney

"Dropped goal."
LYDNEY V. WHITCHURCH.
At Lydney on Easter Monday, before a good crowd. Lydney had the wind and sun against them, but Wild was within inches of scoring. Harrison played grandly for Whitchurch. In

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the second half Lydney attacked continually, a splendidly-contested game resulting in a pointless draw.

DILL HARRIS V. DONTYMSER

The Evening Express published the team selections for the away game at Mountain Ash, 3rd May 1901

WHITCHURCH V. MOUNTAIN ASH.
At Mountain Ash. Whitchurch: Back, W. Salmon; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, E. Thomas, and J. Williams; half-backs, P. Chard and G. Stevens; forwards, E. Boyer (captain), W. Evans, J. Stephens, V. Taylor, F. Richards, W. Russell, T. Hatham, and F. Seaman.

"GLAMORGAN TIMES" JUNIOR

16th September 1901, The Evening Express showed the final score for the Whitchurch, Llanishen game as Whitchurch, 3 Goals and 9 Tries; Llanishen, nil.

23rd September 1901, The Evening Express showed the final score for the Whitchurch, Mountain Ash game: Mountain Ash 2 Goals, 3 Tries and 4 Minors to Whitchurch, 1 Try.

Thomas got a mention on 28th September 1901, The Evening Express



Results on 30th September showed Whitchurch 2 Goals; Tondy, nil.

5th October 1901, The Evening Express showed the final score for the Whitchurch, Penylan game as Whitchurch, one Goal and four Tries; Penylan, nil.

On 24th October 1901, The Evening Express showed the final score for the Whitchurch vs Cardiff Wharton match as Cardiff Wharton 2 Goals, 2 Tries; Whitchurch, one Goal

On 26th October 1901 a rare match report from The Evening Express, this time away at Chepstow St Mary's,

WHITCHURCH V. CHEPSTOW ST. MARY'S.

It was apparent, by the meagre attendance at this match, that there was a great counter-attraction at Cardiff. The home players seemed to have been lured away also, no less than seven of them failing to put in an appearance; it is a pity that the scarcity of good players in the district prevents the committee dealing with these defaulters as they deserve. At the outset, things were even, but the superior weight of the Chepstow forwards soon told. Morgan scored a good try after a smart run, Price converting. Resuming, Whitchurch had more of the game, but could not get possession in the scrums, their backs thus having no chances. Tuckett and Williams worked hard to equalise, but the resolute tackling of the Chepstow men prevented a score.

Half-time score:		G.	T.	M.
Chepstow St. Mary's	.....	1	0	0
Whitchurch	.....	0	0	0

Resuming, play settled in the home territory. Wilshire relieved with a kick to the centre, but the visitors soon attacked, again forcing a minor. The kick-out was smartly followed up, Whitchurch for a time penning the Chepstow men in their own quarters. Their stay there was brief, and Morgan, securing from a line-out, scored again for the Monmouthshire men, the kick at goal being successful.

Final score.		Goals.
Chepstow St. Mary's	.....	2
Whitchurch	.....	0

On 28th October 1901, The Evening Express showed the final score for the Whitchurch vs Chepstow St Mary's Whitchurch, nil; Chepstow St Mary's 2 Goals

The Evening Express had the team selections for Dinas Powys game at Whitchurch, 1st November 1901

WHITCHURCH V. DINAS POWIS.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, P. Chard, and T. Williams; half-backs, G. Stephens and C. Wiltshire; forwards (selected from), J. Stephens (captain), W. Salmon, W. Broad, W. Jenkins, W. Evans, F. Richards, E. Boyer, T. Holton, J. Rugman, and D. Pike. Kick-off at 3.30 sharp.

CARDIFF MACKINTOSH V. PONTYPOOL.

The Barry Dock News published a report on this match on 8th November 1901

The Evening Express opted to publish a local man's summary of the game, 9th November 1901 (below)

Full-back, bore the popular name of Jones.

Whitchurch (writes a man in that quarter), romped round Dinas Powis last Saturday to

the tune of four tries to a goal. It was quite refreshing to see the Whitchurch backs handle the ball, their passing being so beautifully timed and the ball travelling from one to the other like lightning. George Stephens was at half-back, and his generalship in the back division had no little to do with the result. He is a half who is right in the front rank of first-class players, he was ably partnered in every match. Whitchurch spectators, have every thing to be desired in a set of backs, who can play the Welsh game to perfection.

WHITCHURCH v. DINAS POWIS (RUGBY).

This game was played at Whitchurch on Saturday last. Loose play by the homesters let Millar in with a try two minutes after the start, Trott converting. This woke the villagers up, and smart work by Stephens enabled Chard to score. Thomas made a good but futile attempt at goal. This was soon followed by Williams registering the homesters' second try, after a fine individual effort. No goal resulted. Half-time score: Whitchurch, two tries; Dinas Powis, one goal.

Boyer re-started, Dinas Powis returning to touch in the home quarters. Play did not remain here long, and pressing amongst the home backs enabled Llewellyn to score, the kick at goal failing. The visitors retaliated with vigorous forward play, the game for some time being fought on the home line. Chard eventually touched down, the minor bringing much desired relief. After the resumption, Whitchurch again gained the upper hand, Tuckett, smartly following up a long kick, dribbled over, scoring the homester's fourth try, which remained unconverted. Play continued to be fast, and interesting, nothing further being added to the scores. Final score: Whitchurch, four tries; Dinas Powis, one goal.

The score about represents the run of the game, which was an interesting one throughout. Dinas Powis are a likely lot, and made the homesters go all the way to win.

The Evening Express published the teams for the Whitchurch away game at Caerphilly on 8th November 1901, players advised to get on the 2pm bus to get to Llanishen station. We have to assume that these instructions are also communicated in other ways other than to take a chance on a player getting hold of the newspaper.

This one went against us though, Caerphilly, 1 Goal, 2 Tries; Whitchurch, 1 Try (Travel sickness!)

Perhaps, communication didn't get through after all, The Evening Express, 16th November 1901.

The Barry Dock News took justifiable delight in publishing an account of their team's away win at Whitchurch, 15th November 1901

Watkins, J. Renshaw, F. Cholley, A. Lloyd, and J. H. Davies. Whitchurch v. Caerphilly.—At Caerphilly. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, P. Chard, and J. Williams; half backs, G. Stephens and C. Wiltshire; forwards (selected from), G. J. Stephens (captain), T. Holtam, W. Broad, F. Richards, J. Rugman, W. Jenkins, W. Evans, W. Salman, E. Boyer, and D. Pike. Break leaves Whitchurch for Llanishen Station at two p.m. sharp.

Whitchurch arrived at Caerphilly last Saturday with only thirteen men, and had to call on outsiders to assist them, with the result (says a Whitchurch man) that Caerphilly beat them by eleven points to three. G. Stephens, the Whitchurch half, arrived five minutes too late to play.

Jacob Thomas, who was tried on the wing for Tondy against Penylan last Saturday, played a splendid game. He undoubtedly prevented a couple of tries being scored against his side by his fine defence, on one occasion bringing his opponent down on the very verge of the line after having travelled from half-way.

Tondy possesses in Ward Hopkins and John

be a great benefit to the club.

The Brothers Norton are now playing exceedingly well for Caerphilly. On Saturday last they simply made rings round the Whitchurch pair.

Little Harry Thomas, the full back, who played for Whitchurch against Caerphilly on Saturday last, was the object of much admiration. His resource throughout a stiff game was repeatedly cheered by the crowd, the majority of them, by the way, being unqualified devotees of the cheeseopolitans.

Lewis Thomas, the clever Aberavon three-

game.

WHITCHURCH v. BARRY ISLAND UNITED.—This match was played at Whitchurch on Saturday last. Barry kicked off, but the home backs sent the ball down the other end of the field, and Grogan drove them back with a fine kick to touch. The homesters were playing for all they were worth. They came up the field with a rush, and Merton handed the ball right in front of the goal, a penalty kick being given, from which a goal was scored. Half-time score :—Whitchurch, one goal; Barry Island, nil. On changing, the Island showed good combination, and Flint scored after a fine shot. Soon after Drustovich scored for Whitchurch. The Island were not, however, to be beaten, and from a fine shot by German, Davis following up, scored. G. Jones was next to score for the visitors. Final score :—Barry Island, three goals; Whitchurch, two goals. Considering the size of the home team, the visitors played a grand and plucky game, and they deserve every praise for winning.

BARRY DOCK ALBION 2NDS v. BARRY PARISH

Making assumptions here that Whitchurch Crescents have changed their name to Whitchurch United, this team selection for the Roath Crescents vs Whitchurch 'United' match was published in The Evening express on 22nd November 1901. If not Crescents then we have another team in the village.

W. D. Davies, and C. Davies.
 Roath Crescents v. Whitchurch United.—At Whitchurch. Roath Crescents: Back, L. M. Cullum; three-quarter backs, C. Porter, S. Ottrell, E. Smith (captain), and D. Rowe; half-backs, L. Loveless and I. Jones; forwards, E. Thomas, E. Garland, T. Swainson, T. R. Evans, Wright, G. Edgley, Lewis, and Heald. Whitchurch: Back, S. Stephens; three-quarter backs, W. Jones, J. Phillips, W. Llewellyn (captain), and F. Smith; half-backs, R. Davies and A. Pearce; forwards, T. Smart, W. Bodman, L. Davey, D. Watkins, W. Sprudd, E. Earl, S. Boyer, and S. Whitcombe.
 Gelli v. Llantwit Vardre.—At Gelli. Gelli:

Also getting more press coverage in The Evening express on 29th November 1901, but no player names.

Victoria Stars v. Whitchurch United.—At Whitchurch. Victoria Stars: Back, J. Goulding; three-quarter backs, T. Thomas, F. Hodges, W. Williams, and B. Beer; half-backs, E. Smith and E. Snook; forwards, T. Harris, D. Parfitt, G. Lewis, W. Mills, Peterson, A. Dave, A. James, and T. Jenkins. Meet at North-road at 2.30 sharp.
 St. Fagan's v. Llantwit Vardre.—At St. Fagan's. St. Fagan's: Back, G. H. Culverwell:

On 30th November The Evening Express published a report on this representative match dominated by Whitchurch.

WHITCHURCH V. MR. IVOR GEORGE'S
 FIFTEEN.
 Played at Whitchurch. The visitors commenced operations, and Kestell lead a brief attack on the home line. Play did not remain there long. Passing by the home backs led to Davis scoring, Stephens converted. The homesters continued attacking, Llewellyn and Williams scoring smart tries, neither of which was converted. Smart work by Needham James relieved the pressure. Half-time score:—Whitchurch, one goal and two tries; Mr. George's Team, nil.
 From the re-start the superiority of the homesters became more apparent, the combination of Stevens, Llewellyn, and Williams being most effective, the latter scoring no less than four tries, all of which were converted by Stevens. After a combined forward rush Stephens added the eighth try, which was converted. The homesters were superior all round.
 Final score: G. T. M.
 Whitchurch 6 2 0
 Mr. George's Team 0 0 0
 MACKINTOSH V. GABALFA.

The Evening Express had the team selections for a home game against Machen, 6th December 1901

WHITCHURCH V. MACHEN.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, H. Thomas; three-quarter backs, J. Williams, T. Llewellyn, C. Kestell, and D. J. Tuckett; half-backs, George Stephens and C. Wiltshire; forwards (selected from), J. Stephens (captain), W. Salaman, W. Broad, T. Holtam, F. Richards, J. Rugman, W. Jenkins, S. O. Else, and D. Pike. Kick-off at three p.m.

Here the Llandaff Yard collaboration is plain to see, this cutting was from The Evening Express on 7th December 1901

Tuckett, who last season played on the wing for Whitchurch, assisted Llandaff Yard in their match with Tongwynlais last Saturday. The visitors were decidedly lucky in scoring their winning try in the last minute of the game. The Tongwynlais forwards showed a vast improvement, and presented a brave front to their heavier opponents. Jesse Lewis, who turned out at half for the first time this season, played an exceedingly clever game.

As the Christmas period approached Whitchurch played Taffs Well at home, The Evening Express on 14th December 1901

WHITCHURCH V. TAFF'S WELL.
At Whitchurch. Wiltshire broke away and took play to the visitors' 25. John made a good attempt at dropping a goal, and Stevens got away from a scrummage at half-way and passed to Williams, who scored an unconverted try. By continuously kicking to touch Taff's Well removed play to the Whitchurch line, but the homesters' defence proved sound.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	0
Taff's Well	0	0	0

After the re-start good footwork by the visitors' forwards enabled them to press for some time, but they were unable to cross their opponents' line. Salmon started a bout of passing, and Tuckett ran well into the visitors' half, but was tackled in the neck of time. The game was now confined to the forwards, and was extremely dreary from a spectator's point of view. The game was finished in darkness.

Whitchurch	0	1	2
Taff's Well	0	0	0

CWMBRAN V. TREDEGAR

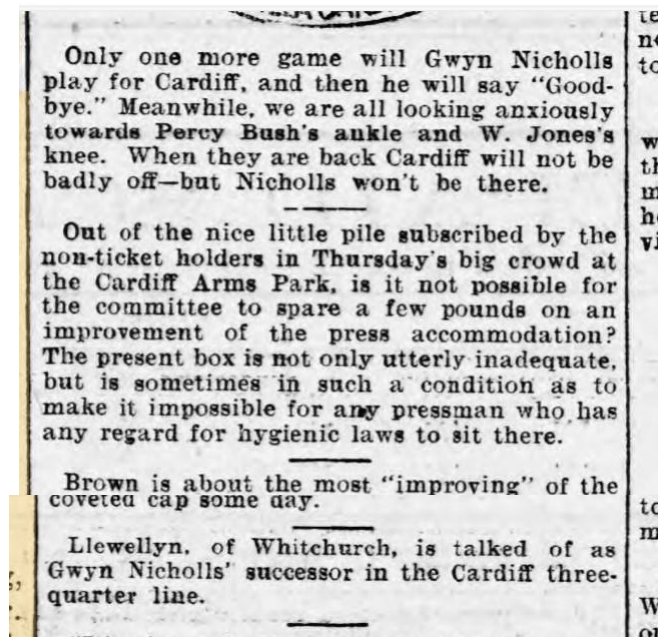
On 24th December 1901 The Evening Express published the teams for a Christmas Day match at home to Gabalfa Quins



On 27th December 1901 The Evening Express showed this result: Whitchurch 3 Goals, 3 Tries; Roath, nil.

This was a time when Gwyn Nicholls the Cardiff and Wales superstar planned to hang up his boots and on 28th December 1901 The Evening Express published these comments. (We'll leave the bit in about the press conditions).

Potentially leading to another player loss for Whitchurch.



Oddly, the press coverage through 1901 was far less than in previous years. It could be a case of the research being limited by what is available at this time, or, it could be a reflection of the level of interest taken by the various newspapers, one thing that does stand out though is that most if not all the available material is from The Evening Express and that tends to suggest that other newspapers have yet to be archived.

1902

On 4th January 1902 things seemed to look promising for Whitchurch if this update is anything to go by, The Evening Express.

luck to him.

Next Saturday the Cardiff Reserves meet Whitchurch, and to Whitchurch folks the event is creating as much interest as the great tussle on the Rectory Field. Whitchurch have never yet beaten the Reserves, but, if they maintain their present form, they should do so next Saturday.

If the Cynon Stars intend retaining the

On 10th January the newspaper published the teams...

WHITCHURCH V. CARDIFF RESERVES.
At Cardiff. Whitchurch: Back, W. Richards; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, T. Llewellyn, T. John, and J. Williams; half backs, G. Stephens and C. Wiltshire; forwards (selected from), J. Stephens (captain), W. Broad, W. Salmon, D. Pike, W. Evans, P. Norton, T. Holtam, F. Richards, W. Jenkins, and J. Evgman. Cardiff Reserves: Back, W. Young; three-quarter backs, W. H. King, Wayne Morgan, H. Davis, and E. G. Tre-

Here's how it went, 11th January 1902, The Evening Express

CARDIFF RESERVES V. WHITCHURCH.
A fair number of spectators attended at the Cardiff Arms Park to witness the match between the Cardiff Reserves and Whitchurch. The teams were as follow:—
Cardiff Reserves: Back, H. Young; three-quarter backs, Treharne (captain), H. Davies, A. Gay, and R. Gibbs; half backs, Ryan and Stephens; forwards, Hines, Jenkins, Coppock, Summerhays, Kirby, Stickler, Dai Edwards, and E. Auckland.
Whitchurch: Back, W. Richards; three-quarter backs, W. J. Tuckett, Tom Llewellyn, Tom John, and J. Williams; half backs, Stevens and Wiltshire; forwards, Holtham, J. Stephens (captain), F. Richards, W. Jenkins, Salmon, Pike, Broad, and W. Evans.
Referee: Mr. C. F. Thornley.
In the opening stages the Cardiff Reserves went off with a dash, and got close to the visitors' line, where several scrimmages took place. One of the Whitchurch backs relieved, and following this up with some passing to the right wing John got in with a very pretty try in the corner. The kick for goal, although a good one, fell short. Cardiff then woke up and made another dash down to the Whitchurch quarters, but the defence was too good, and the home team were eventually driven back to the centre. Some very slovenly play on the part of the Cardiff backs, who seemed unable to pick up the ball or kick it, followed. A forward rush by the forwards enacted a minor from the visitors. Some very scrappy play ensued until Treharne, by a well-directed kick, found touch well in the visitors' quarters. A few seconds later play was back in mid-field, where it was when the whistle signalled a rest.

Half-time score:—	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	0
Cardiff	0	0	1

The second half was very fast, the Whitchurch backs, of whom the best was Llewellyn, making the pace very hot at times. Young, finding touch near their line, however, put a different complexion upon the contest, and, the home halves getting the leather away to the right wing, Howell Davies passed to Treharne, who got through very cleverly with a try, which was not converted, the angle being a difficult one. After the kick-out Young repeated his performance,

EVENING EXPRESS

with the result that Jenkins got in at the left corner with another unconverted try. The visitors following the kick-out got to the other end of the field, but Ryan sent them back, and Richards, fumbling badly, nearly let Cardiff in. The Whitchurch forwards then put in some splendid work, their dribbling being almost irresistible at times. J. Williams, at length getting possession, went down the right wing, and scored a beautiful try for Whitchurch, and, the place-kick failing, the score was equalised. Nothing further resulted.

Final score:—	G.	T.	M.
Cardiff Reserves	0	2	0
Whitchurch	G	C	2
	0	2	0

This speaks volumes, even though we don't get the reports on games to tell us as much, the club has had a good home record so far this season. The Evening Express, 18th January 1902

decision.

The only home defeat Whitchurch has suffered this season was administered by Chepstow St. Mary's, about the weakest team they have played. Eight of the Whitchurch players watched Cardiff and Swansea play that day. They are sorry now.

W. Richards, the Gabalfa full-back, has thrown in his lot with Whitchurch.

In young Evans, of the Mountain Ash

Here we have a write up on the home game against Old Monktonians from The Evening express on 25th January 1902

WHITCHURCH V. OLD MONKTONIANS.
At Whitchurch. The visitors commenced operations. Their forwards, playing well in the loose, rushed into the home territory. Rugman and Hawkins relieved, and for a time play was on the Monks' line. Treharne cleared with a well-judged kick. Stevens changed the venue. Strachan was prominent for smart play, but the homesters were not to be denied, Owen crossing with a well-earned try.

Half-time score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	1	0
Monks	0	0	0

In the second half play again settled in the visitors' 25. After repeated attacks, Windsor Jones crossed, but no goal resulted. The home forwards continued to heel out, but the halves were slow in opening out the game. Strachan intercepted a pass, and got clean away, a splendid tackle by the home full-back.

Final score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	0	2	0
Old Monktonians	0	0	0

On 10th February 1902 among the scores, was Whitchurch, nil; Gabalfa, nil.

Looks like Gabalfa Quins felt justifiably pleased with their efforts, 15th February 1902, The Evening Express

The match Whitchurch v. Gabalfa Harlequins at Whitchurch last Saturday ended very luckily for the home team in that they escaped losing their ground record, just managing to save it by drawing with the Quins, who showed them that their Christmas Day form was all wrong. The Gabalfa Quins actually crossed the Whitchurch line twice, being very unlucky in not being allowed one of the two tries.

Some Gabalfa supporters would like to know why the Whitchurch correspondent to the Football "Express" rushed into print to the effect that they expected to put only a very weak team into the field against Gabalfa, owing to a few of their players being on the sick list, when in reality the only absentee was G. Stephens, and that Gabalfa had a red-hot pack, being led by the once famous brothers Dobson, when in truth neither of these (still famous brothers) played. Gabalfa were, in fact, playing four of their juniors, two forwards and two three-quarter backs, who did themselves real credit.

The four Gabalfa Juniors who assisted their first team in making a draw at Whitchurch last Saturday played a wonderfully good game, especially T. Hodder and W. Lansdowne, Hodder taking great care of the Whitchurch flier, T. Llewellyn, being in fact the soundest back on the field.

On 1st March 1902 The Evening Express sports columnist provided this update on local rugby which included this piece on Whitchurch who were due to play Bridgend and a little dig at people 'sneaking in'..... whoever would think of doing such a thing?

Whitchurch were down to play the "Schoolfield Brigade" to-day, but they (Whitchurch) have been drawn to play a South Wales cup tie with one of the Rhondda teams. I understand the Bridgend team will be compensated by the Welsh Rugby Union.

The majority of the spectators at Bridgend gain admittance to the ground through unfenced portions of the field. Money is lost to the club by this contemptible meanness.

LLWYNPIA.

On 3rd March the score line Belle Vue, nil: Whitchurch, 2 Goals, 1 Try was published.

One of the attractions on the fixture list was this one with Cardiff Reserves, the teams being published in The Evening Express on 7th March 1902

Whitchurch v. Cardiff Reserves.

At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, J. Porter; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, E. Thomas, T. John, and J. Williams; half backs, G. Stephens and C. Wiltshire; forwards, J. Stephens (captain), T. Holtam, W. Salmon, W. Broad, D. Pike, E. Wiles, W. Evans, and P. Williams. Cardiff: Back, W. F. Young; three-quarter backs, E. G. Treharne, W. Morgan, H. Davies, and W. H. King; half backs, H. S. Thomas and D. Ryan; forwards, H. Hines, D. Evans, H. S. Coppock, R. Auckland, F. Summerhayes, L. George, P. C. Smith, and A. N. Other.

PANTEG V. BLAENAVON

This seems to be a measure of the status that Whitchurch Rugby Club was held at that time, a salute to a player from a local club who was selected for Whitchurch, The Evening Express 8th March 1902

An admirer of the Llanishen Club writes enthusiastically:—"Bravo! Llanishen United. Look to your laurels! You have gone well through the season so far; let us see you finish up well. You have the right kind of stuff there. In Bevan, your wing three-quarter, you have a sterling man. He is a resourceful player, with plenty of dash, and one of whom any junior team might be proud. Although practically only in his first season, he has been offered his place in the premier team at Whitchurch. With a little more practice and training, he ought to develop into a really first-class player. He certainly has the appearance of it at present. I think he is the top scorer for Llanishen this season."

The Ynisher and Wattstown United are more than indifferent at the prospect of meeting

This cutting tells us a bit more about the Cardiff Reserves match at home, but it also tells us that Whitchurch has been lacking a No.10

When Whitchurch drew on the Park with the Cardiff Reserves it was confidently expected that they would about win on their own ground, but the fine form of the Reserves pack quite upset the villagers' calculations, and they will be the first to admit that the Reserves thoroughly deserved the thirteen points they got last Saturday.

Whitchurch are badly in want of a good custodian. It is rumoured that Peter Chard is about to fill the gap. Peter has a rare turn of speed, kicks with excellent judgment and to a fine length, and makes no mistake in his tackling. It is hoped he will decide to again don the jersey.

15th March 1902, The Evening Express

The Whitchurch team for the home game against Ystrad Stars was published in The Evening Express on 21st March 1902

The final score here was:
Whitchurch 1 Goal, 1 Try; Ystrad, 1 Try

Whitchurch v. Ystrad Stars.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, A. Moss; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, E. Thomas, T. John, and J. L. Williams; half backs, G. Stephens and C. Wiltshire; forwards, J. Stephens (captain), W. Salman, W. Broad, J. Rugman, D. Pike, B. Wiles, T. Holtham, and J. Porter.

Tylorstown Seconds v. Gelli Seconds.—At

The fixture secretary was having a tough time and even the papers were sympathetic, 22nd March 1902, The Evening Express

quer above the water.

The fixtures of the Whitchurch team have been knocked all abroad by the Welsh Union Cup Ties. In the first round they had to cry off to Bridgend, with the result that last Saturday the Vale of Glamorgan men declined to play at Whitchurch, and the villagers were left without a match. To-day they have to disappoint Dinas Powis, in order to meet the Ystrad Stars in the second round. At the present rate of progress it does not seem as if the cup ties will be over before the cricketing season comes on, and, instead of making the game more popular by this competition, it is possible that the result will be the reverse. In order to prevent future happenings of this kind would the Welsh Union pardon a simple suggestion, viz., that they announce after the final is played this year upon what dates the next year's ties would have to be played, say,

January 3, 1903, Round 1.
January 31, 1903, Round 2.
February 28, 1903, Round 3.
and so on. This would give teams a chance to arrange their fixture-lists properly, and fill up the gaps if they were knocked out of the competition.

A match summary of the Ystrad Stars game was published in The Evening Express on 29th March 1902

The struggle between Whitchurch and Ystrad Stars in the second round for the Welsh Cup on Saturday last was a very keen one, a keenness sometimes bordering on roughness. Especially was this apparent on the visitors' part, and towards the end of the game Mr. John had to order one of their men to leave the field. The feature of the game was the play of the home quartette, Ned Thomas being in especially fine form, having a hand in the both tries. Tuckett's speed was however, the main factor in the first points gained.

Williamstown intend to play in the Troedy-

On 7th April this score line was published: Whitchurch 1 Try; Llandaff Yard, 1 Goal, 1 Try

No strangers to The Arms Park, Whitchurch were in the semi finals of the 'Welsh Union Cup' selecting this team against Cynon Stars, The Evening Express 11th April 1902

CYNON STARS V. WHITCHURCH.
This semi-final tie for the Welsh Union Cup will be played at the Cardiff Arms Park. Kick-off, 5.0 o'clock. Whitchurch: Back, R. Scott; three quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, E. Thomas, J. Williams, and T. John; half backs, George Stephen and C. Welsher; forwards, J. Stephens (captain), W. Broad, T. Holtbam, A. Moss, P. Williams, J. Porter, B. Wiles, and D. Pike. Reserve: W. Evans.

The player drain goes on, 2nd August 1902. The Evening Express

FOOTBALL.
ANOTHER WELSH PLAYER GONE NORTH.
Tom Llewellyn, the smart Whitchurch centre three-quarter, has migrated to Leeds. Llewellyn, who assisted Treherbert the latter end of last season, is a player of exceptional promise, being barely twenty years of age. Amongst other inducements, £50 down was given.

£15 or £50 ? The Evening Express 26th August 1902

Whitchurch Player for Leeds.
Mr. "Tit" Llewellyn, the Whitchurch three-quarter, who about the middle of the last football season was induced to transfer his services to the Treherbert Club, for which organisation he played until the completion of the fixture-card, has gone up North, and has been enrolled a member of the Leeds Club. Llewellyn was one of the best centre three-quarters playing for the Rhondda League clubs, and the Treherbert representatives will have to look round for some time before they will be able to command the services of so capable a player. The exact sum paid to Llewellyn by the Leeds Club is not known, but it is said that £15 was handed to him before he left Whitchurch. Llewellyn, it seems, has some relatives connected with the Leeds Club, and this fact, undoubtedly, proved an inducement to him to leave for the North. He has already played in two practice matches with his new club mates, and the Northern critics are delighted with his capabilities. It is said that Davies, another of the Treherbert third line, has joined the Leeds combination, and that he will play wing to Llewellyn.

ASSOCIATION.
Cardiff Corinthians.
There was a large muster of members at the

The Whitchurch fixture list for season 1902 / 03 was published in The Evening express on 18th August 1902. It looked like this.....

WHITCHURCH RUGBY CLUB FIXTURES. 1902.		
Sept.	6-Trial Match.....	Home
"	13-Mr. J. Blake's XV.	Home
"	20-Cardiff Reserves	Away
"	27-Blaina	Home
Oct.	4-Cardiff Mackintosh	Home
"	11-Caerphilly	Home
"	18-.....	
"	25-Old Monktonians.....	Home
Nov.	1-Bridgend	Away
"	8-Gabalva	Home
"	15-Penylan	Home
"	22-Cwmbran	Home
"	29-Llandaff Yard	Away
Dec.	6-.....	
"	13-Cwmbran	Away
"	20-.....	
"	25-Dinas Powis	Home
"	26-Llandaff Yard	Home
"	27-Caerphilly	Away
1903.		
Jan.	3-Bridgend	Home
"	10-Cowbridge	Home
"	17-Cardiff Reserves.....	Home
"	24-Dinas Powis	Away
"	31-.....	
Feb.	7-Cardiff Mackintosh	Home
"	14-Caerphilly	Home
"	21-South Wales Cup Tie	---
"	28-Old Monktonians	Home
Mar.	7-Blaina	Away
"	14-Ireland v. Wales	Cardiff
"	21-Penylan	Home
"	28-Dinas Powis	Away
Apl.	4-Llandaff Yard	Home
"	11-Cowbridge	Away
"	13-Gabalva	Home
TREDEGAR RUGBY CLUB.		
The Tredegar Club is now in full working order for the ensuing season. At the first		

A very bland statement was published on 6th September 1902 in The Evening Express under the heading 'Whitchurch' following a short update on a Whitchurch cricket match – "Today football begins, the Rugby fifteen taking a preliminary canter against a local fifteen".

On the 12th September 1902 this team (right) was selected, whether it's the 'local fifteen', mentioned above, or not, who knows? The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. MR. FRED. WILLIAMS'S CARDIFF XV.	
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, J. L. Williams (captain), E. Thomas, T. L. Williams, and D. Jones; half-backs, J. Evans and Timothy; forward J. Stephens, W. Evans, B. Wiles, D. Pike, W. Jenkins, F. Amos, G. Page, J. Porter, and Alf. Jones.	

Perhaps it was..... 13th September 1902, The Evening Express, but against 18 men??

WHITCHURCH	
A very even game at Llandaff on Saturday last ended in a win by fifteen runs for the Citizens. The Whitchurch men, however, were not disgraced, as the City team were indebted to P. F. Bush for 22 of their runs, and Williams (of the St. Vincent's) did good work for them with the ball.	
Football is just taking the place of cricket. The Rugby XV. had a trial against a local XVIII. on Saturday, and some promising talent was revealed. In a few weeks the village should have a settled fifteen that will maintain their reputation.	
The Y.M.C.A. Soccer team registered a win, scoring three goals to Roath-road Juniors' odd goals.	

It seems to help having 18 players, on 15th September 1902 The Evening Express printed the final scores showing.....Mr. Fred Williams's Team, two goals, four tries; Whitchurch, nil.

It seems that Gwyn Nicholls didn't hang his boots up after all according to this and after this 'Practice match', Cardiff 2nds were scheduled to play against Whitchurch, 16th September 1902, The Evening Express, the teams being published on 19th September 1902

Station at 12.50.

CARDIFF RESERVES V. WHITCHURCH.
At the Cardiff Arms Park. Cardiff Reserves: Back, F. Young; three-quarter backs, H. King, E. G. Tre-

EVENING MAIL. FRIDAY

horne, E. Brady, and another; half-backs, Evan Jones and D. Rees; forwards, R. Auckland (captain), J. Blake, D. L. Evans, H. Summerhayes, F. Hines, E. Owen, F. Coppock and H. Coppock. Whitchurch: Back, F. Roothby; three-quarter backs, D. Jones, E. W. Jones, E. Brady, and W. Williams; half-backs, J. Evans and W. Jones; forwards, J. Stephens, D. Pike, B. Wiles, W. Evans, J. Rugman, W. Jenkins, C. Hawkins, and G. Page.

Cambrian Boys v. Llwynypia Juniors.—At Llwyny-

CARDIFF CLUB'S PRACTICE.

The Cardiff committee met on Monday evening for the purpose of selecting a team to play against the District fifteen on Saturday at the Cardiff Arms Park. It will be noticed more especially that Gwyn Nicholls was chosen, and also that a further trial will be given the brothers Norton, of Caerphilly. The following were the selected:—Back, H. B. Winfield (captain); three-quarter backs, Cecil Biggs, E. G. Nicholls, W. Jones, and P. F. Bush; half-backs, the brothers Norton; forwards, D. L. Bowen, Stranaghan, Northmore, Spackman, Brown, Hutchins, Smith, and W. Jenkins. Reserves: W. A. Jones (three-quarter), Neill, and J. Blake (forwards).

The District fifteen will be:—Back, D. Fitzgerald (Mackintosh); three-quarter backs, right wing, A. Russell (Mackintosh), centres, H. Harding and D. Martin (Canton), left wing, W. Litchfield (Loudouns); half-backs, A. Tree-side and D. Ryan (Mackintosh); forwards, J. Harding, captain (Canton), E. Lovering (Canton), E. Harding (Canton), D. Reed (Loudouns), R. Davies (Roath), J. Davies (Mackintosh), J. Brown (Roath), and E. Franks (Dinas Powis). Reserve: C. Rees (Rumney). The kick-off will be at three o'clock, and the match will be followed by a game between Cardiff Seconds and Whitchurch, to start at 4.30.

SWANSEA'S FIRST MATCH

20th September 1902, The Evening Express was a bit more scathing.....

WHITCHURCH.

The Whitchurch Cricket Club came a cropper on Saturday last, receiving the bitterest pill of the season, the Hawthorne XI., their near and dead neighbours, defeating them somewhat easily. Against the homesters' total of 65 the Hawthornes put together 80 for eight wickets. The visitors were highly delighted with their victory, but it should not be lost sight of that they had a little outside assistance. Apart from this, their performance was a meritorious one, and the result was one which was very little expected.

Football, also, occupied the attention of some of the villagers, the Rugby fifteen meeting Mr. Fred Williams' Cardiff fifteen. The homesters were badly beaten. Through the non-appearance of several players only thirteen men were put in the field, and this accounts largely for the disastrous start. The committee are not in the least to blame, as they have worked like Trojans, but in quarters where assistance has been expected it has not been forthcoming.

The result has been that several of last year's men have decided to again don the jersey; but the team to meet Cardiff Reserves to-day had no less than nine new faces. Great things cannot be expected at once, but those who are not well-wishers of the team can rest assured that all a determined and active committee can do to disappoint them will be done.

The next against Blaina at home, 26th September 1902, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. BLAINA.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, W. Jones; three-quarter backs, D. Jones, F. Boothby, C. Hawkins, and another; half-backs, Windsor Jones and J. Evans; forwards (selected from), J. Stephens, W. Evans, B. Wiles, D. Pike, G. Page, J. Rugman, J. Pearce, T. Baskerville, W. Jenkins, and F. Amos.

MONMOUTHSHIRE LEAGUE.
BRYNMAWR V. MACHEN.

The sports columnist of The Evening Express opted to give an opinion, 27th September 1902

Whitchurch is going very rocky. Now, "Village Boys," pull yourselves together. Last season you were exceedingly smart. Rub off the summer rust.

On 3rd October 1902 The Evening Express published the Crescents team selection for their away game with 'Lisvane and District'.

Whitchurch Crescents v. Lisvane and District.—At Lisvane. Crescents: Back, S. Stephens; three-quarter backs, W. Bevan (captain), J. Phillips, T. Tucker, and W. Llewellyn; half-backs, R. Davies and A. Porter; forwards, W. Sprudd, T. Smart, W. Bodman, A. Pearce, A. Partridge, D. Price, W. Stephens, and F. Smith.

Clarence Juniors v. Moors District Juniors.—At the

On 6th October, final scores showed: Whitchurch, 1 Try; Mackintosh, 1 Try.
.....and Whitchurch Crescents, 2 Goals; Llanishen and Lisvane United, 2 Tries.

It's all about the 'Crescents', this team selection for the game at Tongwynlais was published in The Evening Express

Whitchurch Crescents v. Tongwynlais Seconds.—At Tongwynlais. Whitchurch Crescents: Back, S. Stephens; three-quarter backs, W. Bevan (captain), W. Llewellyn, J. Phillips, and T. Tucker; half-backs, R. Davies and A. Porter; forwards, W. Sprudd, C. Broad, G. Page, T. Smart, F. Smith, W. Bodman, D. Price, A. Pearle, and L. Davey.

Central Stars v. Cogan Raglans.—At Cogan. Stars: Back, J. Tetley (captain); three-quarter backs, J.

On 20th October final scores showed Whitchurch, 1 Goal (dropped); Cardiff Romilly 1 Try

Here's a bit of extra information if you didn't know who "Mr. F. Williams" was and why the score line looked a bit bleak....20th September 1902, The Evening Express

'Tis a pity that local clubs are not financially strong enough to insure their players against accidents. Roath are making an effort to do so. Possibly other clubs will follow the example if Roath succeed in finding the "needful." Some years ago it was suggested that the District Union should establish an insurance scheme. Why not?

The Mackintosh Football Club, who have the unique honour of being the only club that has won the Mallett Cup twice, appear remarkably strong this season. Last Saturday, under the title of "Mr. F. Williams's Team" (the Mack's secretary), they severely trounced Whitchurch. The village boys were, however, not well represented.

SPOKLETS.

On 24th October 1902, The Evening Express published the team for the home match against Old Monktonians

Whitchurch v. Old Monktonians.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, Will Jones; three-quarter-backs, A. Owen, F. Boothby, G. Stevens, and A. N. Other; half-backs, Windsor Jones and J. Evans; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), D. Pike, C. Hawkins, J. Pearce, W. Jenkins, W. Evans, A. Thomas, and G. Page.

Pontymoile v. Maindee.—At Pontymoile. Maindee: Back, W. Mann; three-quarter backs, W. Green (cap.

1st November 1902 The Evening Express passed comment on Old Monktonians after their game with Whitchurch perhaps suggesting that their fortunes had declined of late.

WHITCHURCH.

The game between Whitchurch and the Old Monktonians proved to be a keener struggle than was anticipated. The general opinion is that, with a few more games together and more training, the old boys' team will re-gain its former position amongst local Rugby teams.

Whitchurch Y.M.C.A. succumbed to Caerphilly Juniors. The Y.M. as yet have met teams mostly heavier than themselves. When those more of their own stamp are met they will have a chance of giving better displays.

WILLIAMSTOWN

At the same time the newspaper published this little report on the 'Crescents' local derby with Llandaff Yard, but was it a 'youth' game (juniors?).

TWICE NIGHTLY — **EN**

STOP PRESS

"EXPRESS" OFFICE, 8.0 p.m.

LLANDAFF YARD v. WHITCHURCH
CRESCENTS.

Keen interest was taken in the meeting of these local junior rivals at Llandaff Yard. Whitchurch kicked off from the railway end, and soon began to press. From a pass Joseph Phillips dropped a goal. The half-time score was—Whitchurch, one dropped goal to nil. Nothing further was scored to the end. Tucker and Bodman played well. Final score: —Whitchurch, one dropped goal; Llandaff Yard, nil.

SOUTH WALES COURIER

The suggestion here is that Whitchurch are still running more than one team and it seems this was a successful weekend, a 'keen' match against Gabalfa to follow. The Evening Express 8th November 1902

want of punctuality.

To-day Whitchurch meet their near neighbours, Gabalfa. Keen rivalry exists between these clubs, and the game is certain to be toughly contested right up to the call of time. It is, in fact, as important a match in the eyes of the villagers as a Welsh international. May the better side win!

The Cardiff Nomads reported at the last meeting of the Union that they had lodged

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch teams won all along the line on Saturday, but the best performance of the day was the victory of the senior Rugby fifteen over Bridgend at the latter place. The report in our contemporary was somewhat contradictory, its introduction stating that Bridgend would have a better team than usual, and that they hoped to register their first win. But when it was seen they failed to do so, it was stated that Whitchurch did not deserve their victory. Hard lines, considering the villagers played two substitutes.

Whitchurch Crescents defeated their dearest neighbours, Llandaff Yard A, by a dropped goal—a win which they well deserved.

On 22nd November there's more on the Whitchurch Crescents, The Evening Express

decreated.

The chief match was between Cardiff Nomads and Whitchurch Crescents. The villagers had a strong band of followers, who persisted in the Whitchurch vernacular in styling their opponents "Nomans." The title was not ill-deserved, for in the first half the Nomads' tackling would have discredited a team of old maids. However, in the second half matters changed, and the Cardiff men tackled with vigour, and kept Whitchurch in their own territory during the whole of the half. They were distinctly unlucky in not winning by a larger score than two tries to a penalty goal. The two attempts at goal struck the cross-bar and dropped under.

Having a day off from league contests, the

Well, this would have put a dampener on things, not even one man and his dog, The Evening Express, 29th November 1902

The players at Whitchurch had to dress by lamplight, and only twenty minutes' play was possible owing to darkness and the rain.

TRAEVDUIW

Whitchurch expected a big gate last Saturday, when their opponents were Cwmbrian. The heavy rain and the very late arrival of the visitors resulted unfortunately in practically no spectators being present. Spillane scored for Whitchurch from a forward rush just after the start. After twenty minutes' play the referee very sensibly stopped the game.

1st December 1902 The Evening Express showed the scoreline: Llandaff Yard, nil; Whitchurch, nil. (and Whitchurch Crescents, 1 Try; Llanishen and Lisvane 1 Try).

The Whitchurch team for the home match against Cardiff Romilly was published in The Evening Express on 5th December 1902

RUGBY.

Whitchurch v. Cardiff Romilly.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch; Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, P. Hawkins, W. G. Jones, T. John, and A. Owens; half-backs, S. George and W. Salman; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), D. Pike, W. Jenkins, A. Thomas, F. Richards, W. Evans, J. Evans, and another.

Pontypool Seconds v. Talywain.—At Talywain. Pontypool; Back, Richards; three-quarter backs, Roderick

A Christmas fixture away at Caerphilly was a struggle for both teams, 27th December 1902 The Evening Express

CAERPHILLY V. WHITCHURCH.

The opening stages of the game were fast and open, and in defending their lines Whitchurch displayed much merit in their tackling. Hostilities centred in the home territory from the start. Then Caerphilly made a splendid burst, carrying play to within a yard of their opponents' citadel. For fully fifteen minutes the struggle was waged about the Whitchurch quarter, and, though Caerphilly pressed for all they were worth, their opponents' defence allowed but two minors.

Half-time score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Caerphilly	0	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

The resumption saw Whitchurch on the aggressive. The home back found touch about five yards from the line. Caerphilly kept up the attack for the remainder of the game, and, though it was characterised with much vigour, they failed to achieve more than minors.

Final score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Caerphilly	0	0	4
Whitchurch	0	0	0

EXMOUTH V. ROATH.

As you will have noticed, once again the club has had less exposure from the newspapers. Over the next few years coverage and publicity becomes less and less. There's plenty more to come however.

1903

3rd January 1903 The Evening Express *(at the time of research digital archives had access issues however there was a way of getting text from the newspaper reports):*

WHITCHURCH. Whitchurch did exceedingly well over the holidays. In the three games in which they participated they kept their lines intact, and bearing in mind the great loss incurred through the absence of their able full back, Frank Boothby, this speaks well for their defence. The sweets of victory fell to their lot on two occasions versus Tongwynlais and Llandaff Yard and they were thoroughly enjoyed, especially on the latter occasion.

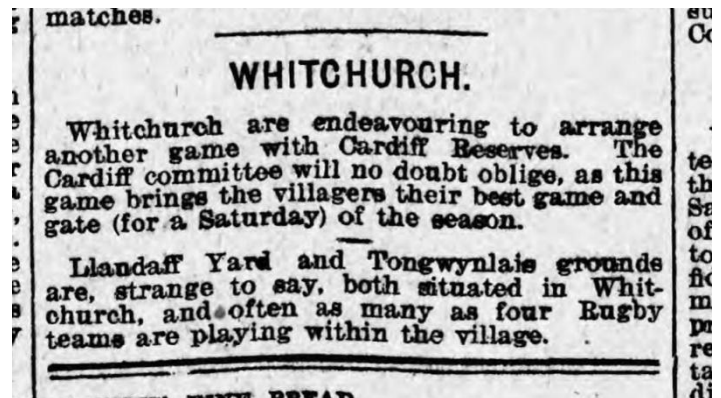
The draw made with Caerphilly on the latter's own ground was a splendid performance. The Castle boys were at full strength, but the one little try which their supporters so ardently called for was not forthcoming.

Whitchurch Crescent lost their ground record on Saturday, going under to Caerphilly United. The United were the heavier side, but the Crescent were distinctly unlucky. Twice they registered, apparently, for scores which were not allowed.

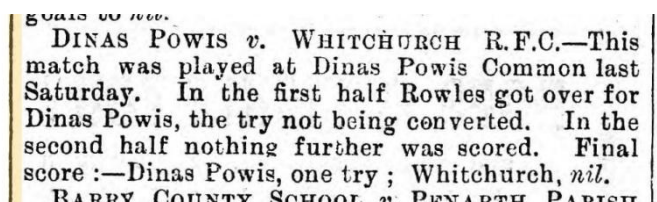
LLANDAFF YARD. The game between Whitchurch and Llandaff Yard on Boxing Day, on the former's ground, was a very spirited contest, each side playing for all they were worth, and it looked at one time as if the result would be the same as the previous encounter—a draw. No doubt, it would have been had Whitchurch not had the able assistance of J. L. Williams of Newport, who scored the only try of the match. The Whitchurch forwards, being much heavier than their opponents, controlled the; scrimmages in fine style, but in the open they were outclassed, as the cross-dribbling of the Llandaff Yard forwards was the feature of the match.

The Cardiff Reserve match was high on the agenda and there seemed to be confidence that it would remain on the fixture list, 24th January 1903.

The cutting also tells how much the history and heritage of sport has declined in our village in over 120 years, once being hosts to a number of sports and a number of teams, some existing sports still under threat.



On 30th January 1903 The Barry Dock News published this 'snippet'.



13th February 1903 The Evening Express published the Whitchurch team for the home match against Caerphilly

LATE FOOTBALL

Whitchurch v. Caerphilly.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, P. Hawkins; three-quarter backs, T. John, I. Morgan, W. G. Jones, and A. Owen; half-backs, G. Stevens and E. E. Jenkins; forwards, J. Ruggan (captain), W. Salman, D. Pike, J. Evans, W. Jenkins, A. Thomas, C. Hawkins, and F. Richards.

It is announced from New York that Sir Frederick Pollock, LL.D., D.C.L., Corpus Pro-

An update on the Caerphilly match was provided a week later in The Evening Express on 21st February 1903

WHITCHURCH.

Caerphilly are at length satisfied. After three attempts, they have defeated Whitchurch, and on the latter's own ground, too. Whitchurch sadly missed the services of Boothby, their smart full back. Many are of opinion that he would have so strengthened the defence that a draw would have resulted. As things were on the day's play, Caerphilly fully deserved to win by eleven points to five.

Association Gossip

A lengthy report was published in The Evening Express on 26th February 1903. In fairness and credit to both sides, it was a match dedicated to local Whitchurch policeman Dai Evans.

The paper publishing more on this game on 28th February.

WHITCHURCH.

The visit of the County Police to Whitchurch on Wednesday last aroused considerable interest, and those who managed the affair must be complimented upon the success of their effort. Police-constable Dai Evans is expected to benefit to the extent of about £10, which is extremely good as gates go in Whitchurch. As to the game, it was keenly contested from start to finish, and none was more surprised than the homesters at the result. The Police side was a most formidable one, Bryce being the only absentee. A fine individual effort by Reddick, of Caerphilly, gave the homesters the first points, and, although Bob Jones broke through the home defence and made the scores level, Salman placed the homesters ahead by a well-kicked penalty goal. Chard played a sound game, and it was generally remarked that it was regrettable that the policy of running two teams in the village spoiled the chance of their being one strong organisation. The hope was frequently expressed that Llandaff Yard and Whitchurch

WHITCHURCH V. GLAMORGAN POLICE.

Through the efforts of Mr. C. Thomas, the secretary of the Whitchurch Football Club, a match was arranged between the Glamorgan Police and his club for the benefit of Police-constable Dai Evans, the well-known ex-international player. The match took place on Wednesday at Whitchurch. Rees kicked off for the Police, and, no return being made, a line out was formed in the home 25. The Police picked up in the loose, and a score nearly resulted. Whitchurch were penalised, and Alexander had a shot for goal. The Whitchurch forwards now rushed the ball to the Police 25, and F. Evans fielded nicely. Rees received from a line out, and gained a few yards for the Police. Lyles then broke away, and Reddick picked up and stopped a dribble by the Police. Ashwin here showed up well by fielding from the feet of the Police. The Police were having by no means the best of the game, and the few bouts of passing which Alexander initiated broke down on the left wing. Whitchurch were smartly attacking in the Police quarters, when Rees, making a mark, gained relief. A beautiful opening by Alexander was spoilt by Bob Jones clinging to the ball too long. Smart play by Whitchurch was the means of recovering the lost ground. Whitchurch were making a stubborn fight, and the forwards were by no means beaten by the heavy Police. Sullivan opened up a round of passing for Whitchurch, but a rather wild pass to the right spoilt the opportunity. An extraordinary thing now happened. The Police dribbled right up to Ashwin, but the forwards fumbled the ball and allowed the home backs to clear, when the Police had nothing else to do but pick up the ball and run over. Evans received, and by a fine individual effort gained a try for Whitchurch. The kick for goal failed.

Half-time score.		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch		0	1	0
Glamorgan Police		0	0	0

In the opening stages of the second half the Police asserted their superiority, Alexander sending over Bob Jones. G. Evans failed with the kick. Owen was responsible for saving a certain try, and Vicary was prominent in subsequent play. G. Evans was playing finely at back, and a little more accuracy in his touch-finding would have proved him perfect. Sergeant Smith did good forward work for the Police, and in a rush sustained a severe blow in the eye. Alexander intercepted, but was half a dozen yards offside—a fact which the referee did not fail to perceive. A free resulted, from which Solomon dropped a goal. Thus with a lead of three points the home men kept their line intact.

Final score.		G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch		*1	1	0
Glamorgan Police		0	1	0

*Penalty goal.

7th March 1903 The Evening Express,
Whitchurch overcame ol rivals Old
Monktonians, the report also updating on
the Crescents and lo and behold we have
another Whitchurch team making their
debut, Whitchurch Nomads.

WHITCHURCH.

The Old Monktonians gave a glimpse of their old time form at Whitchurch on Saturday, and, as they were leading by five points to nil at half-time, they gave the home players and spectators somewhat of a shock, but the homesters stuck manfully to their work, and in the second half wiped off the arrears, with four points to spare. Strachan, the Monks' left wing, showed good pace and judgment, and was mainly responsible for the try scored by Edwards. The homesters played three substitutes, but the energy and dash of the remainder made up for any deficiency which might have existed.

The Crescents defeated Dinas Powis for the second time this season, and, as a third game between these keen rivals takes place at Dinas Powis to-day, the Crescents will have to look to their laurels, as the Dinas boys have resolved to register a win at their expense.

The Nomads made their first appearance, with St. Monica's as their opponents, and, being less experienced and on the smaller side, the former were defeated by twelve points to six.

WILLIAMSTOWN

Here we have a record of both village teams, 20th March 1903 The Evening Express, Whitchurch Crescents home to Canton Rovers and Whitchurch home to Penylan.

and W. Yeo.

Whitchurch Crescents v. Canton Rovers.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, M. Nicholas; three-quarter backs, W. E. Bevan (captain), T. Tucker, W. Jones, and W. Llewellyn; half-backs, E. Davies and J. Phillips; forwards, F. Dudley, C. Broad, A. Pearce, B. Grimshaw, H. Phillips, F. Whitcombe, T. Davies, and C. Friend.

Belle Vue Boys v. Bargoed Lillies.—At Bargoed. Belle Vue: Back, Evan James; three-quarter backs, D. R. Morgan (captain), W. Jenkins, Alf. Eynon, and D. Jones; half-backs, D. Rees and W. Milson; forwards, A. Williams, W. Moore, W. J. Gibbon, Sam Gibbon, A. Davies, M. Maguire, E. Cannings, and W. Sqaunce.

Whitchurch v. Penylan.—At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. L. Williams, W. G. Jones, T. John, and W. Llewellyn; half-backs, E. E. Jenkins and R. Power; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), W. Soliman, D. Pike, J. Evans, B. Wiles, W. Jenkins, A. Thomas, and F. Richards.

Canton v. Loudouns.—At the Docks. Loudouns: Back,

Caught out for playing a couple of 'ringers'.
8th April 1903 The Evening Express.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT UNION.

At a meeting yesterday evening of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union—Mr. A. H. Williams in the chair, the committee dismissed the appeal of St. Teilo's against the decision of the committee ordering that the St. James v. Penarth Thistles match be re-played.—Roath reported Whitchurch for playing E. Power and C. Hill without obtaining the necessary transfers, and it was decided to call the attention of the offending club to the breach of the law, and to state that the matter would be reported to the Welsh Union in case they continued to play these men without transfers.—The union resolved to pay Penarth Thistles their expenses when they played Grange Seconds, as the previous match was not decided owing to the non-arrival of the referee.—It was decided to place the St. David claim against Pontnewynydd in the hands of the union secretary, Mr. A. F. Hill.

GLAMORGAN RUGBY UNION

Two team selections published on 9th April 1903 in The Evening Express, a match with Cowbridge and another with Gabalfa, most likely an Easter period.

RUGBY.

WHITCHURCH V. COWBRIDGE.

At Cowbridge. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. L. Williams, W. G. Jones, J. Morgan, W. Llewellyn, or C. Hill; half-backs, E. E. Jenkins and B. Power; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), W. Salmon, D. Pike, W. Jenkins, B. Wiles, J. Evans, F. Richards, and B. Williams.

BRYNMAWR V. NEWPORT SECONDS.

At Brynmawr. Brynmawr: Back, R. Jones; three-quarter backs, J. Roberts, J. A. Evans, J. A. Davies, and Tom Garnon; half-backs, J. Kerton and D. Beynon; forwards, Jack Foley, Dan Harris, W. Cooper, R. Heyward, W. Batty, W. J. Evans, J. Arnold, and A. Baynton.

St. James's v. Caerphilly United.—At Caerphilly. St. James's: Back, J. Kingdom; three-quarter backs, W. John, I. Barry, F. Cottrill, and W. C. Wood; half-backs, P. Jones and J. Manley; forwards (selected from), W. G. Stroud, Nash, Harris, Summerfield, Lewis, Parfitt, Harding, and Stacey.

WHITCHURCH V. GABALFA.

At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. L. Williams, W. G. Jones, J. Morgan, W. Llewellyn, or C. Hill; half-backs, E. E. Jenkins and B. Power; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), W. Salmon, D. Pike, W. Jenkins, B. Wiles, J. Evans, F. Richards, and B. Williams.

Welbys v. West End.—At Jubilee Park on Easter

2nd May 1903 the Whitchurch Crescents took the plaudits in The Evening Express finishing the season with a decent record.

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch Crescents wound up their season in fine style, having in the last three matches added the huge total of 69 points to their credit. They have had a very successful season, playing 23 matches, out of which they have won sixteen, drawn four, and lost three. They have kept their line intact since the beginning of the year, not having had a single point since that time registered against them. They have scored 209 points against 71, most of which were earned by half-back and threequarter efforts.

CYCLING GOSSIP.

Well, what do you make of this? It's great to see the full results table for season 1902 – 03 and very successful it was too, but the second sentence of the report puts a different complexion on things, 9th May 1903, The Evening Express... A sign of things to come perhaps?

st. T. Walters, and W. Collier 1 each.

WHITCHURCH.

The record of the Whitchurch Rugby Club for the past season is one which must give the officials considerable satisfaction. When the season commenced, many predicted that the club had seen its last, but the energetic secretary and others persevered, and it can now be safely said that never in the history of the game was Rugby more flourishing in the village. There is much promising talent, and when the veterans who have so well upheld the old club during the past season step out, there are many likely recruits to fill the gaps.

Record:—

Year	Opponents	Result	For.	Agst.
1902.	Sept. 13.—Mr. Fred Williams's XV...	Lost	0	15
	" 20.—Cardiff Reserves	Lost	0	20
	" 27.—Blaina	Won	9	6
	Oct. 4.—Cardiff Mackintosh	Drn.	3	3
	" 7.—Caerphilly	Drn.	0	0
	" 18.—Cardiff Romilly	Won	4	3
	" 25.—Old Monktonians	Won	6	0
	Nov. 1.—Bridgend	Won	5	0
	" 3.—Gabalva	Won	5	3
	" 15.—Penylan	Lost	0	4
	" 29.—Llandaff Yard	Drn.	0	0
	Dec. 13.—Cwmbran	Lost	0	6
	" 20.—Mr. T. John's XV.	Won	6	0
	" 26.—Tongwynlais	Won	11	0
" 28.—Llandaff Yard	Won	3	0	
" 27.—Caerphilly	Drn.	0	0	
1903.	Jan. 3.—Bridgend	Won	5	0
	" 10.—Cowbridge	Drn.	3	3
	" 24.—Dinas Powis	Lost	0	3
	" 31.—Tongwynlais	Won	3	0
	Feb. 7.—Cardiff Mackintosh	Drn.	0	0
	" 14.—Caerphilly	Lost	5	11
	" 28.—Old Monktonians	Won	9	5
	Mar. 7.—Blaina	Lost	0	10
	" 21.—Penylan	Won	13	0
	Apr. 4.—Llandaff Yard	Won	3	0
" 11.—Cowbridge	Won	8	3	
" 13.—Gabalva	Drn.	0	0	
" 25.—Cardiff Reserves	Drn.	8	8	

Points for, 107; against, 103; won, 14; drawn, 8; lost, 7.

Windsor Jones was top scorer, with W. Broad and W. Llewellyn good seconds, the latter being also the most successful goal kicker.

There was a lot of optimism for the village sports teams during the summer, 25th July 1903, The Evening Express

The football season is approaching apace, and six weeks hence will see operations commencing. The Whitchurch Rugby Club have exceedingly good prospects, and have a strong list of fixtures arranged. Llandaff Yard are eligible for the first division of the Cardiff and District Union, but have not yet definitely decided whether they will join the League. Whitchurch Crescents are candidates for the third division of the Cardiff and District Union, and have prospects of a good season. The Whitchurch Soccer club anticipate some good additions to their players' ranks, and have their usual attractive list of fixtures.

The 1903 AGM was covered by The Evening Express on 4th August. Some new faces elected as 'officials' and a small debt to keep an eye on.

FOOTBALL.

THE WHITCHURCH CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the Whitchurch Rugby Football Club the following officers were elected:—Captain, D. Price; committee, Messrs. F. Potter, J. B. Glendinning, J. Lewis, J. Harwood, P. Norton, J. Thomas, E. Townsend, and —. Davies; hon. secretary, Mr. J. Evans, College-road; hon. treasurer, Mr. G. T. Brunett. Mr. Brunett announced that he would give two guineas towards reducing the club's slight debt.

An early season call up for two Whitchurch men, The Evening Express on 8th September 1903.

FOOTBALL.

Next Saturday's Trial Match at Cardiff.

Among the applicants for places in the teams that will play in next Saturday's trial matches at Cardiff are the following:—

Forwards: H. Davies (late of Pill Harriers), I. Caple (Pontypridd), J. Coslett (Pontypridd), A.-Morgan (Llwynypia), O. Anthony (Hayes), C. Howell (Pontyclun), D. Pike (Whitchurch), W. H. Stoddart (Empire United), Police-constable H. Owen (Cardiff), H. Bailey (Penarth), D. Wood (Pontypridd), Fred Evans (late Pill Harriers), James Willis (Gabalva), J. M'Intyre (Cardiff), W. D. Cullimore (Cardiff), A. Chant (Llwynypia), R. Care (Cardiff Old Monktonians), A. H. Jones and G. Jenkins (Old Monktonians), and W. C. Ees (Cardiff).

Three-quarters: A. J. Taylor (Grangetown, Cardiff), O. J. Walkey and W. H. Walkey (St. Mellon's), S. L. Williams (Whitchurch), Martin Braddon (Old Monktonians), W. H. Gunstone (Canton), C. Usher (Pontypridd), W. Shean (St. David's), J. Price (late of Llandilo), W. Stoylo (Aberaman), and Travers (Barry).

Half-backs: S. Sutton (Penarth), W. Moses (Pill Harriers), W. Bence (late of Bath), O. H. Thomas and W. Lewis (Old Monktonians). Cecil Escott (Penarth, late of Cardiff) will, probably, turn out this season.

Full-backs: E. W. Evans (Pontypridd), W. H. James (Llanbradach), and W. J. Winfield (Cardiff Seconds).

In the event of there being any vacant places, they will be filled by last season's

The Evening Express on 11th September 1903 showed the Whitchurch team selection for the match against Llanishen and Lisvane United.

WHITCHURCH V. LLANISHEN AND LISVANE UNITED.
At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, D. E. Jones; three-quarter backs, W. Llewellyn, W. G. Jones, W. Richards, and F. Priest; half backs, R. Power and P. Jones; forwards, W. Jenkins (captain), W. Salmon, J. Stephens, J. Evans, W. Sprudd, A. Stone, G. Page, and B. Williams.

The Evening Express on 15th September 1903 showed the Cardiff team for the match against Whitchurch telling us that this fixture is still firmly on the calendar.

Cardiff Seconds v. Whitchurch.
The following team was chosen to represent the Cardiff Seconds against Whitchurch, at the Cardiff Arms Park, on Saturday:—Back, W. J. Winfield; three-quarter backs, J. L. Williams, W. A. Jones, W. Lichfield, and Wayne Morgan; half-backs, Bence and W. E. Lewis; forwards, F. Evans, F. Smith, D. Reed, C. S. Stranaghan, Summerhayes, W. C. Rees, W. J. Hart, and J. Harding.
South Wales Association

Both teams then being shown on 18th September.

CARDIFF RESERVES V. WHITCHURCH.
At the Cardiff Arms Park. Kick-off at 4.45. Whitchurch: Back, Mawer; three-quarter backs, W. Llewellyn, W. G. Jones, W. Richards, and F. Priest; half-backs, R. Power and P. Jones; forwards, D. Pike (captain), J. Stephens, W. Jenkins, W. Sprudd, J. Evans, B. Williams, A. Stone, and P. Lamey. Cardiff Reserves: Back, W. J. Winfield; three-quarter backs, Huggett, A. "Kelt," W. A. Jones, and Litchfield; half-backs, A. Tresize and W. E. Lewis; forwards, F. Evans, P. S. Smith, Reed, A. H. Jones, Gill, Stranaghan, Summerhayes, and W. J. Hart. Reserves: Westacott and Maclean.
TREHERBERT V. CILFYNDD

tion of the team should be perfectly sound.
WHITCHURCH.
Whitchurch players will figure somewhat prominently on the Cardiff Arms Park to-day. J. L. Williams and W. E. Lewis assisting the Reserves against their old team.
W. E. Lewis, who gave such a promising display in the Cardiff trial match, has frequently assisted Whitchurch, but having been subsequently engaged in the South African war, very little can be said of what might now be expected of him. Formerly he was known for his occasional brilliant displays and displays that were the other extreme. It is said, however, that in South Africa he was the best back in the Glamorgan Yeomanry fifteen, and those who then saw him state he gave evidence of developing into a really class player. He has every advantage, age, weight, and build being on his side.
Whitchurch have out a good side, the team being considerably strengthened forward, but it is still thought that the heavier pack of the reserves will more than hold their own. Providing the Whitchurch forwards can hold their opponents, there will not be much of a margin between the teams.
In their match against Llanishen and Lisvane Whitchurch tried several new players. Phil Jones, of St. James's, played a good game at half, whilst W. Richards, who last year played Soccer, returned to his old love, and played a sound game in the centre. Priest on the left wing was slightly off, but, with attention to training and practice, has the making of a good man. W. Sprudd, of the Crescents, a forward has justified his inclusion in to-day's team to meet Cardiff Seconds.
The Crescents, who are in the third division of the Cardiff and District Union, are really a clever combination. They are particularly well served at half-back by Randell Davies and Phillips, and the feature of their play is the back game. Smart passing and good combination gave them a victory over Wells United on Saturday last at Canton by two tries.

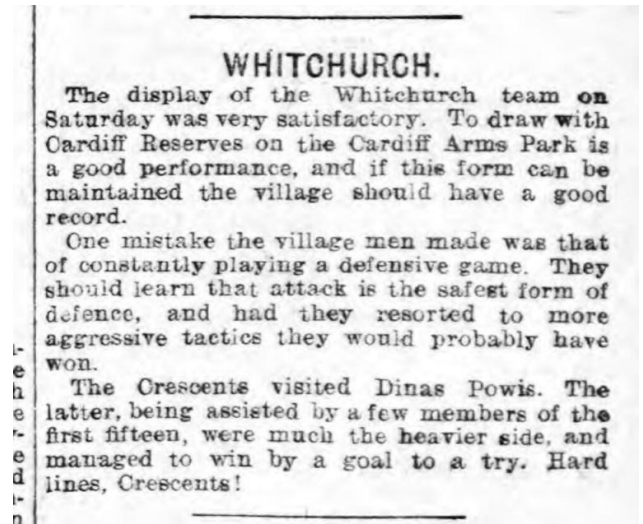
(Right) A useful early season update on the Whitchurch side and the ongoing link with Cardiff, fostered by the conveyor belt of talent leaving the village for elite rugby. 19th September 1903. The Evening Express

In order for you to plan your season the Whitchurch fixture list was published in The Evening express on 19th September 1903 (right). Start saving and tell your Mam.

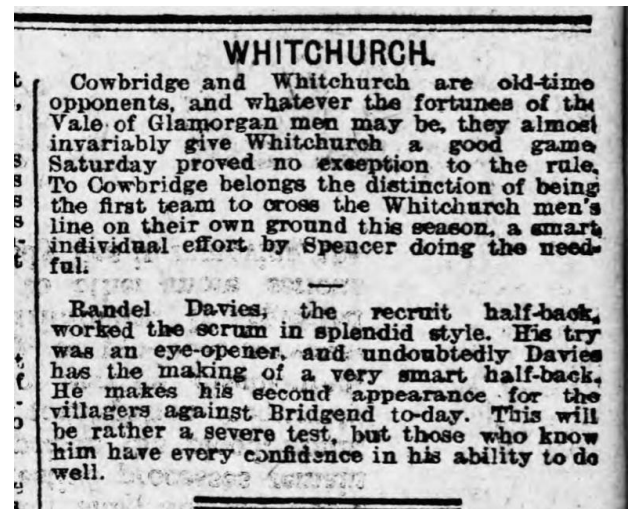
WHITCHURCH.	
The Whitchurch Rugby Club, whose fixtures appear below, are likely to figure prominently in this season's local football. Nearly all of last year's players are available, and it would be difficult to improve upon those of the old team that remain.	
1903.	
Sept.	5.—Trial Match Home.
"	12.—Llanishen and Lisvane Home.
"	19.—Cardiff Reserves Away.
"	26.—Gabalva Home.
Oct.	3.—Old Monktonians Home.
"	10.—Caerphilly Away.
"	17.—Llandaff Yard Home.
"	24.—Pontyclun Away.
"	31.—Cowbridge Home.
Nov.	7.—Bridgend Away.
"	14.—Dinas Powis Home.
"	21.—Cardiff Mackintosh Home.
"	28.—Llandaff Yard Away.
Dec.	5.—Swansea Seconds Away.
"	12.—Pontyclun Home.
"	19.—Clifftydd Away.
"	25.—Tongwynlais Home.
"	26.—Llandaff Yard Home.
1904.	
Jan.	2.—Dinas Powis Away.
"	9.—Cardiff Reserves Home.
"	16.—Old Monktonians Home.
"	23.—Newport Seconds Away.
"	30.—Pontymister Away.
Feb.	6.—Clifftydd Home.
"	13.—Bridgend Home.
"	20.—Pontymister Home.
"	27.—Cardiff Mackintosh Home.
Mar.	5.—Llandaff Yard Away.
"	12.—Newport Seconds Home.
"	19.—Caerphilly Home.
"	26.—Welsh Wanderers Home.
Apr.	2.—Cowbridge Away.
"	4.—Gabalva Home.
"	9.—Tongwynlais Away.
I V D N E V	

By now you might have noticed that Whitchurch played Llandaff Yard, 3 times / season and had done so for some years. This was a local derby highlight and considered to be a 'bit of an earner' when it came to gate money, too good to turn down, essential for both sides to help 'balance the books'.

Whitchurch showing a bit of early season form earning a creditable draw against Cardiff Reserves, 26th September 1903
The Evening Express

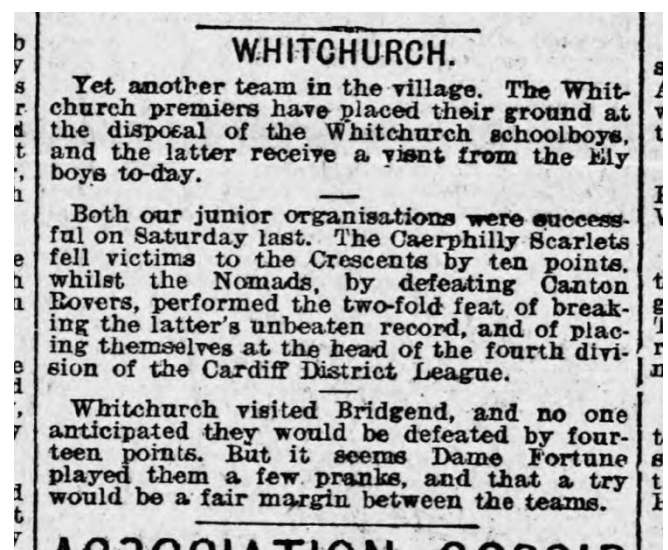


The Cowbridge match was covered briefly by The Evening Express on 7th November 1903. Evidently Whitchurch have been doing well so far this season conceding their first try. Some new faces in the line up too.



On 9th November, final scores showed: Bridgend, 1 Goal, 3 Tries; Whitchurch, 2 Minors.

The Evening Express on 14th November 1903 was generous in its praise on recent matches, but here we find out that the club now has a junior side (schoolboys). Credit too, to the Nomads who seemed to be doing well.



On 16th November 1903 final scores showed: Whitchurch, 1 Try; Dinas Powis, 2 Tries.

The Evening Express on 27th November 1903 published the Whitchurch team for the derby game against Llandaff Yard

Whitchurch v. Llandaff Yard.—At Llandaff Yard. Kick-off at 3.0 p.m. Whitchurch: Back, D. Butler; three-quarter backs, W. D. Llewellyn, W. G. Jones, H. Charles, and D. E. Jones; half-backs, R. Davies and T. Tucker; forwards, W. Jenkins (captain), J. Evans, J. Stephens, A. Stone, W. Brood, C. Burnett, J. Bowen, and J. Hayes.

Bedwas v. Caerphilly United.—To be played at Caerphilly. Bedwas: Back, W. Ashman; three-quarter

Dynas Powys took a hit in The Evening Express on 4th December 1903. We are left to wonder what happened.

Edmunds, Machen. Edmunds will not be able to play for a month and Evans for a fortnight.

Whitchurch v. Dinas Powis.—In this match Dinas Powis walked off the field before full time had been played, and were reported accordingly by Mr. D. Davies. They now have to pay the penalty of not being able to play on their own ground till the end of the year, and their captain will be a spectator till the end of January. All clubs are prohibited from playing at Dinas Powis this month.

An application was made by Mr. J. H.

Wonder no more, the details were found.....(a little out of synch date wise), this earlier report was published in The Evening Express on 21st November 1903.

WHITCHURCH

The meeting of the rival villages, viz., Dinas Powis and Whitchurch, was expected to produce a good game. Unfortunately, the visitors arrived late and the last portion of the game was fought out in semi-darkness. In the opening stages, Dinas Powis had the best of matters, thanks mainly to good heeling out by their forwards, but they did not use the advantage of having the wind and rain in their favour to the extent that they should have done. The visitors were best served at half-back, where Dinas played a sound game.

The feature of the homesters' play was their fine forward rushes in the second half, which soon produced the equalising try. The unaccountable action on the part of the Dinas Powis captain in leading his men off twelve minutes before time evidently saved his men from defeat, and will be the cause of a report from the referee to the Welsh Football Union.

The Evening Express on 18th December 1903 published the teams for the away match at Cilfynydd and lo and behold, Peter Chard back in the mix.

WHITCHURCH V. CILFYNYDD.

At Cilfynydd. Cilfynydd: Back, W. H. James; three-quarter backs, Stoyle, D. R. Jenkins, Aneurin Williams, and Richardson; half-backs, D. Morris (captain) and J. Seymour; forwards, Hookaway, Eynon, W. Williams, Ryan, M'Guire, Joe Lloyd, Talbot, John Evans, and Reddick. Whitchurch: Back, D. Butler; three-quarter backs, W. Llewellyn, W. G. Jones, H. Charles, and P. Chard; half-backs, R. Power and R. Davies; forwards, J. Evans (captain), J. Stephens, W. Broad, C. Burnett, A. Stone, W. Jenkins, J. Hayes, and J. Bowen.

PONTYPOOL V. PONTNEWYDD.

At Pontypool. Pontypool: Back, L. G. Coleman;

A rare match report, 26th December 1903, The Evening Express, the reporter couldn't help but notice the effects of Christmas.

WHITCHURCH V. VICTORIA UNITED.

At Whitchurch. Referee, Mr. A. Hayes, W.F.U. In the opening stages it was apparent that some of the players were feeling the effects of the Christmas festivities. The United went off with a bang, taking play to the Whitchurch goal-line. Butler cleared, and a forward rush saw Brond nearly over for the homesters. Opening out the game, Whitchurch were several times within an ace of scoring, but failed at the crucial moment. Playing pluckily, the United changed the venue. Some good open play saw Grant smartly seizing an opportunity and crossing for the United. Rogers made a splendid attempt to convert.

Half-time score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Victoria United	0	1	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Resuming, Whitchurch went to work with a will. Getting possession in the scrums, the backs handled frequently, but at times kicked a deal too much. Settling down to the passing game, Whitchurch equalised, good work by Davies, Power, and Chard enabling Charles to cross. A repetition of the same manœuvre saw Charles adding the second try. Keeping up the pressure and playing good football, Charles added another try for the homesters, which Llewellyn converted. A penalty for off-side against the United enabled Llewellyn to further increase the villagers' score.

Final score:			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	*2	2	0
Victoria United	0	1	0

1904

The Barry Dock News didn't hesitate to kick the new year off with the Barry Unites 2nds match against Whitchurch Nomads, 1st January 1904

The Evening Express 2nd January 1904 summarised the Christmas of 1903 with this brief account of the holiday festivities, a match on Christmas morning against Mackintosh.

One interesting aspect of this is the mention of an up and coming player by the name of J. L. Williams who had selected for Cardiff 2nds (remember the name).

The Evening Express was busy on 9th January 1904 with updates on Whitchurch teams, the Whitchurch 1sts match was called off, away at Dinas Powis due to frost, while Whitchurch Crescents match didn't happen, meanwhile, Whitchurch Nomads played on Whitchurch's home ground.

were H. Williams, G. Hendy, J. Davies, and E. Wakeham.

BARRY UNITED SECONDS V. WHITCHURCH NOMADS (R).—This match was played at Whitchurch on Christmas Day, when the homesters, who were the smartest team, won by a goal and two tries to a try. Randel scored the try for Barry.

BARRY INTERMEDIATE OLD BOYS V. BARRY WEST END.—These teams met at the Romilly

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch have every reason to be satisfied with the results of the Christmas holiday matches. On Christmas morning a team of Cardiff Mackintosh, assisted by a few outsiders, was defeated by nine points to three. The homesters held their own forward, and their superiority behind the scrum gave them the victory. There is no mistaking the strength of Whitchurch behind the scrum-mage. Every man can handle the ball, and that with good effect. A further development of the passing game will improve the game from a spectators' point of view, and also assure good results.

It is probable that Saturday will see three ex-Whitchurch players in the Cardiff Seconds team. Frank Bunn, the Whitchurch-Pontypridd forward, has been offered a place in the team. He and Pike are a couple of forwards any team could do with. The other player is, of course, J. L. Williams, who is doing so well in the three-quarters this season.

YSTRAD.

energetic and capable chairman.

WHITCHURCH.

The frost prevented what would have proved an interesting encounter, that of Dinas Powis v. Whitchurch, whilst the failure of Llanishen to meet the Crescents proved a great disappointment. The thaw had made the Crescents' ground quite playable.

The Nomads, who had the use of the premiers' ground, were more fortunate. Their rivals (the Penarth Thistles Reserves) turned up, and a good game resulted. There is no mistaking the advance made by the Nomads. Given less opportunities than their heavier opponents, they managed by smart football to prove themselves victors by three tries to one.

The sports page printed the league table for the Cardiff and District clubs with Whitchurch Crescents and Whitchurch Nomads figuring prominently

DIVISION III.						
P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts
Roath Hornets	4	3	1	0	21	3
St. Teilo's	5	3	1	1	20	9
Canton Reserves	6	2	0	4	11	26
Barry United	6	2	0	4	7	53
Barbarians	7	1	0	6	3	14
Victoria United	3	1	0	2	3	16
DIVISION IV.						
P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts
Penarth Thistles	5	4	1	1	43	10
St. Mary's	6	3	1	2	27	13
St. Saviour's	3	2	0	1	14	14
Whitchurch Cres.	5	1	1	3	6	9
Wells United	6	1	1	4	4	43
DIVISION V.						
P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts
Hibernians	11	7	3	1	59	13
Canton Rovers	10	8	1	1	144	11
Splott Crusaders	11	6	3	2	66	20
Whitchurch Nom.	10	7	0	3	48	31
Penarth Thistle Res	10	3	4	3	28	32
St. James's	12	3	4	5	25	36
St. Peter's	9	3	1	5	17	60
St. Barnabas'	10	2	2	6	18	50
Etonians	8	1	3	4	11	36
Clive Thistles	8	1	3	4	14	26
St. Patrick's	7	0	0	7	7	98

Newport School's League

Things didn't seem to be going too well later for Whitchurch Crescents though, on 13th January 1904 The Evening Express published a summary of the Cardiff and District Union weekly meeting in which various club issues were dealt with amongst it being the following statement "St Mary's claimed two points through the failure of Whitchurch Crescents to raise a team", this being granted.

Whitchurch still producing the goods, players exercising their desire to earn a wage. The Evening Express 20th January 1904.

WHITCHURCH PLAYER GONE NORTH.
Northern Union poachers are said to have been at work at Whitchurch. Llewellyn, the promising right wing, has been induced to go to Leeds. His cousin, T. Llewellyn, is the well-known Leeds and Yorkshire County centre three-quarter. Whether the business of the former is one of business or of pleasure has not yet transpired.

Whartons v. Griffiths' Employes.—Played at the Sophia Gardens this afternoon. Wiltshire and Ashton scored tries for the Whar-

The Whitchurch teams still holding their own in the District league table, not too much movement within the divisions, 23rd January 1904 The Evening Express (right)

The paper also giving Whitchurch some faint praise for a win against Old Monktonians (below).

The Old Monktonians deserve praise for their show against Whitchurch. At Cardiff's suburb on Saturday they ran the homesters to a try. Box was in capital form, and his strong runs were the feature of the match. Randell Davies scored the winning try for Whitchurch. With a little luck the Old Monks would have won against Whitchurch's rather unrepresentative side.

Canton Reserves, after commencing the season badly, have rapidly improved. It was,

WHITCHURCH

The Old Monktonians have been welcome visitors to Whitchurch for many years. Last Saturday they gave the villagers a good game, the homesters securing victory by the margin of a try only.

Whitchurch had an experimental side out. Of the recruits, Fry gave the best display in the rear division. It is to be regretted that he lacks weight. Jenkins, in the centre, was evidently off colour.

The forwards, as usual, played well, despite the fact that there were three strangers in the pack. Bunn was as clever as ever, and it is hoped he will be able to go to Newport to-day.

The Monks were strong forward, whilst Lewis and Trezarna played a dogged, defensive game.

The Cardiff League Ladder.

(By "SPOKES.")

DIVISION I.									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag	Ps		
Canton	6	3	3	0	21	6	9		
Romilly	5	4	1	0	17	3	9		
Grange Stars	7	3	0	4	24	30	6		
Roath	5	1	3	1	5	4	5		
Mackintosh	5	0	4	1	9	19	4		
St. Agnes	6	0	1	5	10	20	1		
Old Monktonians and Dinas Powis exempt.									
DIVISION II.									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag	Ps		
Penarth United	6	6	0	0	59	0	12		
Roath Hornets	6	4	1	1	30	12	9		
St. Teilo's	6	4	1	1	26	9	9		
Canton Reserves	9	4	0	5	16	29	8		
Barry United	7	2	0	5	10	62	4		
Victoria United	5	1	0	4	3	21	2		
Barbarians	8	1	0	6	3	14	2		
DIVISION III.									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag	Ps		
Penarth Thistles	6	4	1	1	43	10	9		
St. Mary's	7	4	1	2	27	13	9		
St. Saviour's	4	3	0	1	14	14	6		
Whitchurch Crea.	6	1	1	4	6	9	3		
Wells United	6	1	1	4	4	48	3		
DIVISION IV.									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Ag	Ps		
Canton Rovers	12	10	1	1	167	11	11		
Spilott Crusaders	13	8	3	2	77	26	19		
Hibernians	13	7	3	3	59	31	17		
Whitchurch Nomads	12	8	0	4	50	65	16		
St. James	14	5	4	5	34	36	14		
Penarth Thistle Res.	12	3	4	5	32	41	10		
Olive Thistles	10	3	3	4	45	29	9		
St. Barnabas	12	3	2	7	25	57	8		
St. Peter's	10	3	1	6	17	69	7		
Ettonians	9	1	3	5	14	46	5		
St. Patrick's	9	0	0	9	7	93	0		

The paper also publishing a brief account of a Whitchurch away fixture at Newport 2nds (right)

NEWPORT SECONDS V WHITCHURCH

Played at Newport, before a moderate attendance of spectators. There was still a little frost on the ground in places when the teams took the field. In the first half the Newport forwards held a slight advantage over the visitors. The back play of both sides was faulty, and a good many rosy chances were lost owing to the hard and slippery surface of the ground. Half-time arrived without any score. In the second half play was of a ding-dong and scrappy character, both packs of forwards being very vigorous. At length, from a long kick over the line, Conway Williams scored a try. The same player failed with the place kick. Soon after Stanley Williams scored Newport's second try, and the place kick again failed.

Final score:—

	G.	T.	M.
Newport Seconds	0	2	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Final score. Goals

A little more on the Newport match telling us that Whitchurch had a slightly weakened team on the day.

30th January 1904 The Evening Express

Busy times.....

A 'fairly interesting' game against Pontypool with Whitchurch being praised for having "a splendid lot of forwards"yes against Pontypool. This one needs framing.

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch were unfortunate in not being able to place a representative side in the field against Newport Seconds on Saturday last. A couple of good forwards were missing; but the absence of Randel Davies and Peter Chard was most keenly felt. Weakened in the back division, the villagers were compelled to play a forward game, which they did very effectively.

The Crescents were at home to Penarth Thistles, and went under by eight points after a hard game. The victory further strengthened the position of the Thistles at the head of the Third Division.

The Nomads were more fortunate, thanks to fine play in the open by their forwards. They defeated St. Peter's by three tries, which success brings them up to third position in the Fourth Division League table.

served their victory.

PONTYPOOL V WHITCHURCH

Played at Pontypool in heavy rain. Both teams played several substitutes. In the opening stages of the game Reardon made a brilliant burst, and put Martin over with an unconverted try in the corner. Just before half-time the same player got over with another unconverted try, after smart initial work by Jenkins. Halftime score: Pontypool, 2 tries; Whitchurch, nil. Pontypool tried to open out the game in the second half, but the heavy state of the ground did not favour their efforts. The visitors pressed hard, and got two minors in quick succession. Following-up a strong run by "Ponty" Jones, Martin got possession of the ball, and found little difficulty in getting over with Pontypool's third try. Jenkins made another brilliant burst just before the call of time, and, passing out to "Ponty" Jones, this player was easily successful in crossing the line.

Half-time score:—Pontypool, 2 tries; Whitchurch, nil.

Final score:		G.	T.	M.
Pontypool	.....	0	4	0
Whitchurch	.....	0	0	0

COMMENTS.

Considering the heavy state of the ground and the wretched conditions which prevailed, the game was fairly interesting. The visitors had a splendid lot of forwards, but their backs were inferior to Pontypool.

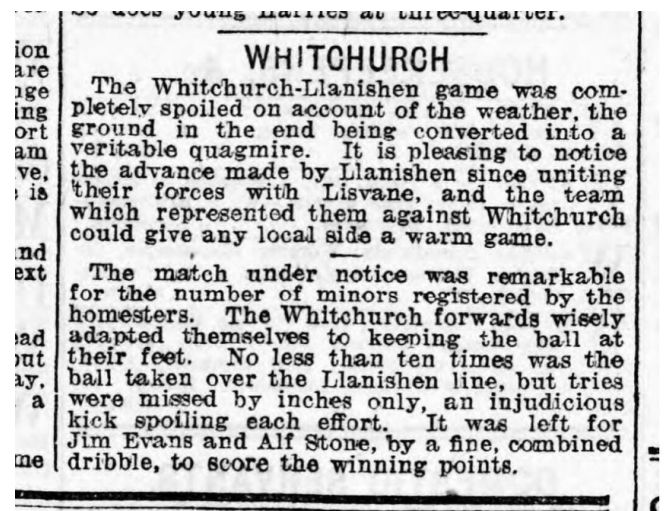
YSTRAD STARS AND CROSS KEYS.
At Cross Keys. The return match with these

On the 15th February 1904 The Evening Express printed the score Bridgend 1 Goal, 2 Tries; Whitchurch, nil.

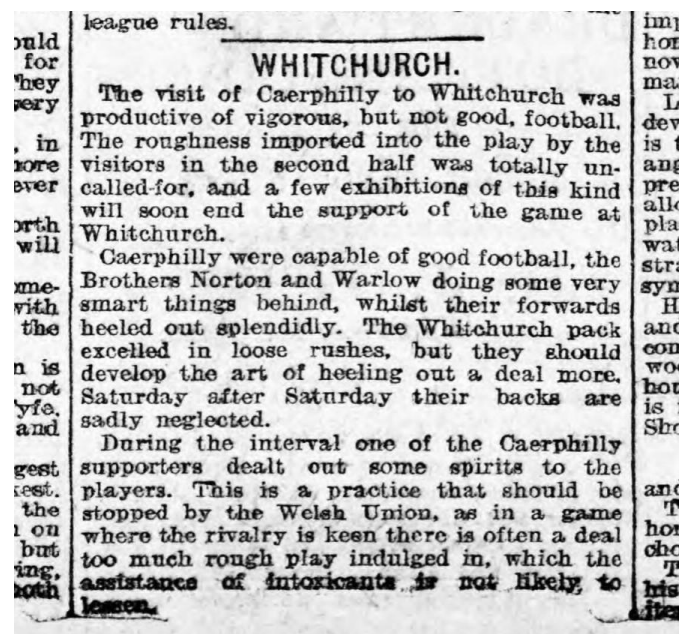
On 19th February 1904 in The Evening Express we are rewarded for our patience with a rare team selection at home to Llanishen and Lisvane.....



A tight game against an emerging Llanishen and Lisvane team, 27th February 1904 The Evening Express



On the 5th March 1904 The Aberdare Leader was looking forward to hosting Whitchurch at the Athletic Ground - "This should prove a very interesting game if the visitors show anything like their recent form".



Well, it had to happen, just not the right spirit. 26th March 1904 The Evening Express

There's no hiding from this, a mixed, confused even, review, nothing more to say.

30th April 1904 The Evening Express

Matches played 28, won 25, drawn 2, and lost 1.

WHITCHURCH

The record of the Whitchurch club this season is one that reveals features of both a satisfactory and unsatisfactory nature. For half the season the record was particularly good, but after Christmas there was a general falling off in form, due largely to the inattention of the players to training. The forwards have been the mainstay of the team, the back play having savoured far too much of individuality rather than combination. Record:—

	P.	P.
Sept. 12.—Llanishen and Lisvane (W.)	22	0
„ 19.—Cardiff Reserves (D.)	3	3
„ 26.—Blaina (D.)	0	0
Oct. 3.—Old Monktonians (W.)	19	0
„ 10.—Caerphilly (L.)	7	11
„ 17.—Llandaff Yard (W.)	13	0
„ 31.—Cowbridge (W.)	8	3
Nov. 7.—Bridgend (L.)	0	13
„ 14.—Dinas Powis (D.)	0	0
„ 21.—Cardiff Mackintosh (W.)	6	3
„ 28.—Llandaff Yard (D.)	0	0
Dec. 5.—Swansea Seconds (L.)	3	6
„ 19.—Cilfynydd (L.)	0	3
„ 25.—Cardiff Mackintosh (W.)	9	3
„ 28.—Victoria United (W.)	14	3
Jan. 9.—Cardiff Reserves (D.)	0	0
„ 16.—Old Monktonians (W.)	3	0
„ 23.—Newport Seconds (L.)	0	6
„ 30.—Pontypool (L.)	0	12
Feb. 13.—Bridgend (L.)	0	10
„ 20.—Llanishen and Lisvane (W.)	3	0
„ 27.—Cardiff Mackintosh (L.)	0	3
Mar. 5.—Aberdare (L.)	0	22
„ 12.—Newport Seconds (L.)	0	3
„ 19.—Caerphilly (L.)	0	6
„ 25.—Cilfynydd (L.)	3	6
April 2.—Cowbridge (W.)	3	0
„ 4.—Victoria United (W.)	8	0
„ 16.—Barnstaple (L.)	0	17
	124	133

Played 28; Won 25, lost 1, drawn 2 Points for 124; against 133.

Encouraging signs on the progress the club is making from this cutting on the 1904 AGM. 27th June 1904 The Evening Express.

Evidently the treasurer was a happy man, a good fixture list to look forward to and the club pondering on whether or not to join the Cardiff and District Union.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB

The annual meeting of the Whitchurch Rugby Football Club was held on Saturday at the Fox and Hounds Hotel. The financial report showed the club to have a good balance with the treasurer. Mr. James Eyans was re-elected captain, and Messrs G. T. Bennett and J. Llewellyn, treasurer and secretary respectively. A good list of fixtures has been arranged, including all the second teams of the Welsh first-class clubs. The advisability of joining the Cardiff District Union was discussed, but the final decision was deferred.

NO SENSE OF CALLANTRY

Here's a valuable record for the time, the 1904 - 05 fixture list, leaving us with no doubt as to the tough task ahead and the level of opposition the club is competing with.

The Evening Express 20th August 1904.

Imagine what that would be like today.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES		
Whitchurch		
Sept. 10	Aberdare	Away
" 17	Blain	Away
" 24	Weston-super-Mare	Away
Oct. 1	Old Monktonians	Home
" 22	Caerphilly	Home
" 29	Newport Reserves	Away
Nov. 5	Troedyrhiw	Home
" 12	Swansea Reserves	Away
" 19	Cardiff Mackintosh	Home
" 26	Bedwas	Home
Dec. 3	Treorky	Away
" 17	Newport Reserves	Home
" 24	Cardiff Reserves	Home
" 26	Aberavon Stars	Home
" 31	Caerphilly	Away
Jan. 21	Machen	Away
" 28	Old Monktonians	Home
Feb. 4	Cardiff Reserves	Away
" 11	Aberavon Stars	Away
" 25	Mackintosh	Home
Mar. 4	Treorky	Home
" 11	Troedyrhiw	Away
" 18	Bridgend	Away
" 25	Bedwas	Away
Apr. 15	Machen	Home
Penarth		
1904.		
Sept. 24	Bristol	Away

At the beginning of season 1903 – 04, things looked rosy, a decent trial between the two sides but it seems some players have moved on and the three quarters are short in numbers. The Evening Express 3rd September 1904



Not the best way to start the season, but plenty of time left, 3rd September 1904, The Evening Express



In a wider context, just as an aside, Whitchurch was a very busy place sports wise, from the same newspaper.....



A difficult start to the season followed beginning with a match at Aberdare. 17th September 1904 The Evening Express



Followed by a rare report in the same paper away at Blaina.

*Penalty goals. †Dropped goal.

Whitchurch v Blaina

At Blaina, before a good crowd. The teams lined out as follows:—Blaina: Back, R. Jones; three quarter backs, D. P. James, H. Law, H. Williams, and T. Garnon; half-backs, F. Watkins and D. J. Griffiths; forwards, H. Ord (captain), T. Roberts, T. Fearn, E. Probert, J. Morgan, J. Davies, H. Morgan, and C. White.

Whitchurch: Back, C. Jenkins; three-quarter backs, F. Thomas, E. Thomas, J. Gerish, and J. Eal; half-backs, R. Davies and J. Phillips; forwards, J. Evans (captain), J. Stevens, W. Halter, B. Wilts, W. Sprudd, A. Pearce, J. Ward, and J. Stone.

R. Jones started for Blaina. Whitchurch returned to mid-field; from the scrum Jones, the home wing, sent play near the line. Blaina kept pressing and should have scored if the backs were not so erratic in their passing. Blaina still kept going, and from a kick off one of the visiting players, R. Jones fielded and dropped a beautiful goal from near mid-field.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	M.
Blaina	*1	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

* Dropped.

Final score			
	G.	T.	M.
Whitchurch	1	0	0
Blaina	*1	0	0

* Dropped.

LLANELLY V. CARMARTHEN

A match between Llanelly and Carmarthen

On the 1st November 1904 in the small print was this result “Whitchurch Schoolboys, 2 tries; St Peter’s Schoolboys, 1 try. (The Evening Express). A little morsel that not just tells us a score but that schoolboy rugby was flourishing and our schoolboys were represented.

On the 5th November The County Observer showed this score line: “Newport 2nds 1 try; Whitchurch, nil”.

The Evening Express paid it more attention with this brief on 5th November 1904

The form of the Premiers continues to be consistent, and to run Newport Seconds to a try on their own ground was by no means a bad performance. The forwards again played a strong game, but the old fault of selfishness amongst the backs nullified their efforts.

—

The Nomads gave St. Peter's a warm reception upon the occasion of their first league match at home. A 22 points victory shows that the Nomads did not produce their true form in the opening games of the season. They should make a mark in the fourth division.

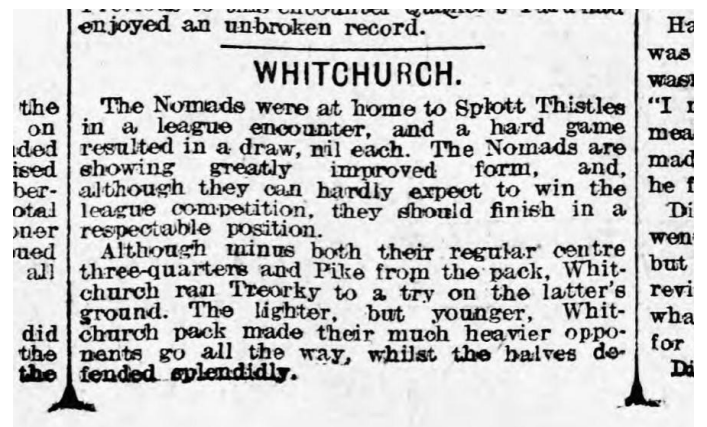
Another interesting score line if only to tell us the standard of opposition the Whitchurch team were playing against was this one: Swansea 2nds 19 points; Whitchurch 6 – 14th November 1904 The Evening Express and in the Schools league: Grangetown 3 tries; Whitchurch, nil. Another score read: Whitchurch Nomads, 1 try; Splott Thistles, 0.

The 21st November 1904 saw Whitchurch beat Mackintosh by 1 Goal to nil. (Rugby Result) and on the 28th draw nil nil with Bedwas.

3rd Dec 1904 The Evening Express....."WHITCHURCH. were expected to win comfortably in their match against Bedwas, but the visitors proved much stronger than anticipated, and the margin at the finish, was only a try in favour of the homesters. The homesters showed a lack of training, and it is almost inexplicable why they do not pay more attention to practice, seeing they have the advantage of the advice of such a practical hand as Tom Dobson, the old Welsh international, who is prepared to meet them at headquarters at any time".

On the 5th December 1904 the results of the previous Saturdays fixtures showed the score line Treorky [*sic*], 3 points; Whitchurch, nil and on the same day (The Evening Express), in the Welsh team trial match, Probables, 30 points; Possibles, 5 points (remember those?) and it looks like points have started to replace the try and goal count. That said, the same paper showed the score line for Schools Rugby....Court Road, 1 try; Whitchurch, 1 try.

A bit of a form guide from The Evening Express on 10th December 1904, Whitchurch Nomads earning respectability while Whitchurch made Treorky go all the way despite a depleted team.



On 12th December the rugby results showed Tredegar 4 tries; Whitchurch, 1 try...another line read: Whitchurch Juniors, 0; St Barnabas, 0 and school results showed: Grangetown, 3 Tries; Whitchurch, nil.

We'll put this cutting in from The Evening Express on 17th December 1904 because it shows us the up and coming talent and the strength of the game here at the time. One name to look out for here is young Frederick Potter.

Cardiff Schools League
RUGBY.
CARDIFF SCHOOLS UNION.
FIRST DIVISION.
METAL-STREET V. WHITCHURCH.

On the Whitchurch Football Ground Metal-street and Whitchurch Schools met in a first division league match. Metal-street had Taylor, their clever half-back, away, whilst Devonport was missing from the Whitchurch three-quarters. Metal-street started, and from the opening scrimmages the Whitchurch lads reeled the ball out splendidly, giving Beacon and Potter plenty of opportunities. Smart tackling by Roberts and Carter stopped scoring. Savage came away well for the Cardiff lads, but was not backed up, also a score would have resulted. Still continuing to reel out well, the Whitchurch forwards gave Beacon a nice chance, which he fully utilised by giving up to his co-half, Potter, at the right moment, and the latter scored a fine try. Shortly after Potter dropped a magnificent goal with his left foot. The goal was, indeed, a beauty. Half-time arrived with Whitchurch leading by a dropped goal and a try to nil. On resuming, Mitanchet headed some fine rushes of the Metal-street forwards, but Soden saved for the Onurcnites. Then Thompson—a very big lad—who, by the way, did not play against either Court-road or Roeth Park—got over with a try, after a fine burst. Next Jones scored the best try of the day, Beacon starting some fine passing. Both attempts at goal failed. Thompson, whose physique was the wonderment of the Cardiff lads, then scored two more tries in irresistible style. Potter also added another, which Moon converted.

	Final score:	G.	T.	Pts.
Whitchurch	2	4	21
Metal-street	0	0	0

ASSOCIATION

Tredegar took the honours in The Evening Express on 17th December 1904

WHITCHURCH.

The villagers gave Tredegar a good game, but the forwards, who have all along been doing so well, were beaten, and, consequently, the backs had few chances. Power's try was the result of a fine individual effort.

The Nomads do not seem able to accomplish more than drawn games. Their display on Saturday last against St. Barnabas was of a very ragged nature. The forwards want to pack better, and so give the halves clean chances to feed their backs, otherwise there is a likelihood of their score-sheet always remaining blank.

ASSOCIATION

The 27th December 1904 saw the result Whitchurch 6 points; Aberavon Stars, nil.

On the face of it it's another successful year for the club, a set of mixed results but they were up against some top opposition. Coverage of matches in the newspapers has declined year on year and part of this is due to the ever increasing interest in other sports and that in itself would have reduced the page space available. Interest in football (soccer) is on the rise.

1905

The opinion of Whitchurch people was clearly valued by The Evening Express on 3rd February 1905 on the eve of the Wales vs Scotland match.

play.

WHITCHURCH

The opinion in Whitchurch football circles is that Wales will win. Contrary to the general view, the villagers think that had the opposition in the English match called for more strenuous play, the forwards would have been equal to the occasion, and that in the game under notice the Scotch eight will have a warm lot to keep in check. The backs are thought to be Scotland's superiors, and, given a referee that understands the game, Wales should get home comfortably.

GREEK SEAMAN'S PREDICTION

It looks like nothing came of the possibility of Whitchurch joining the league system of the Cardiff and District Union, 22nd February 1905, The Evening Express

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION.

A meeting of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union was held on Tuesday evening. As Rhydfelan failed to put in an appearance against Grange Crescent on Saturday last, it was decided to withhold the decision until the second round of the cup tie. Owing to the absence of a referee in the match Spiott Crusaders v. Canton Rovers, the match will be re-played on the Canton Rovers' ground. Owing to Whitchurch failing to put in an appearance at Cardiff, all their opponents will be awarded points. The Cardiff Football Club announced that the winners of the cup will play Cardiff Reserves on March 2. A letter was read from Mr. Pettigrew requesting all teams to notify him of all future league matches.

WELSH INTERNATIONAL SUSPENDED.

Here's a comment on the development of local talent, or lack of it in this case. Rugby in Whitchurch has come on in leaps and bounds for 2 decades, but things have started to creak. 18th March 1905, The Evening Express.

gloriously.

WHITCHURCH.

Junior football has become practically a dead letter at Whitchurch. This is unfortunate, as at present there is no stepping-stone from the schoolboys' team to the premiers. The Whitchurch committee should see that this gap is filled up, otherwise the good work done in training the lads in a knowledge of Rugby will come to nought.

ASSOCIATION

The Evening Express 15th April 1905, it seems that local talent had started to dry up, the conveyor belt was damaged, performances were not up to expectation, develop the youngsters.

Cup, which a double royal is expected.

WHITCHURCH.

The visit of Whitchurch to Troedyrhiw turned out better than was anticipated. The experiment was tried of including some of the better-developed local juniors in the team, and the result should lead the committee to persevere with local talent, and not rely so much upon the imported article.

There has never been a season when so little enthusiasm has been shown in the game at Whitchurch, and this is largely due to the fact that more than half the team are strangers. More local talent would create more interest, and would also serve the better purpose of developing the material at hand.

The Evening Express 22nd April 1905 also emphasised the drop off in playing ability, crying out for the days of past times.

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch entertained Lisvane on Saturday last, and found the opposition much stronger than anticipated. In the opening stages Whitchurch took things very easily, but they were soon brought to realise the game was no "soft thing" by the Lisvane forwards rushing over with a good try.

The villagers eventually put on two converted goals, which gave them a seven point victory, but the general display of both sides entirely lacked those movements which one expects to see in Welsh football. This year the Whitchurch team has done very little practising, and the result has been that their supporters have longed for the days of Peter Chard, Tit Llewellyn, and J. L. Williams. They were treated to some good passing in those days, but now, alas, never. It is to be hoped that next season more interest will be taken by the players in developing the proper style of football.

The Evening Express 29th April 1905, tells us that Whitchurch Nomads and Whitchurch Y.M.C.A. are still competing, this time in what seems to have been a regular Easter fixture.

The only game at Whitchurch over the holidays was a match between the Nomads and the Y.M.C.A. to decide the rubber for the season, each side having previously gained a victory. On this occasion the Nomads, who had the assistance of several of the premiers, won by a solitary try. The Y.M.C.A. had the misfortune to lose their smart centre three-quarter, D. E. Jones, a few minutes after the start.

ASSOCIATION

The 1905 AGM was printed in The Evening Express on 21st August 1905, The Fox and Hounds remaining as the club's home.

ne now object to granting those dates, and things
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WHITCHURCH CLUB.
The annual meeting of the Whitchurch Club was held at the Fox and Hounds Hotel on Saturday. The treasurer's report showed a slight adverse balance on last season's working. The following officers were elected:—Captain, Mr. Fred Thomas; vice-captain, Mr. Randal Davies; treasurer, Mr. G. T. Bennett; hon. secretary, Mr. J. Llewelyn Davies, Terrace, Whitchurch.

CAERLEON AMALGAMATION.
Mr. Harding presided at a well-attended meeting of the Caerleon Football Club on

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Some optimism on show for season 1905 – 06, The Evening Express 9th September 1905, and some players are still 'going north'.

style of play.

WHITCHURCH.

Not being able to enjoy any cricket last week, thoughts of athletes naturally turned to football. The prospects of the premiers are better than those of last season. Several new and promising players are available, and although Power and Bowen have gone North, their absence will in no way weaken the team.

The fixture-list is a strong one, comprising games with Cardiff Seconds, Newport Seconds, Treorky, Tredegar, Cwmbran, &c.

The villagers expect to have a good season. In Fred Thomas they have an excellent captain, who is a thorough sport and a good player. Saturday's trial match revealed some good talent.

Association Gossip

There was a few articles on Whitchurch in The Evening Express on 7th October 1905.....

This one asking where local players had gone.....

WHITCHURCH.
There seems to be a great dearth of local talent at present, but this will, doubtless, be remedied in time, as the schoolboys of the village play in the first division of the Cardiff Schools League. Just now there are only four local players in the team, the rest being from the neighbouring districts of Cathays and Gabalfa.

ASSOCIATION

A separate article then publishing the Cardiff Boys team for their match against Pontypridd and as if scripted, 3 Whitchurch boys appear in it.

Gaskell.

CARDIFF BOYS v. PONTYPRIDD BOYS.
A meeting of the committee of the Cardiff Schools' Rugby Union was held this afternoon to pick the team which will play the Pontypridd boys on Wednesday next for the benefit of the Welsh National War Memorial Fund. The following team was selected:—
Back, Keen (Ely); three-quarter backs, McDougall (Ely), T. Williams (Grange), Aubrey Jones (Whitchurch), and J. Roberts (Grange); half-back, Coghlan (St. David's) and Gotter (Whitchurch); forwards, Cornish (Grange), Jeffries (Grange), Stone (St. John's), Payne (St. Monica's), McMahon (St. David's), Dickens (Court-road), N. Jones (Whitchurch), and Purvoe (South Church-street).

HOCKEY

Despite going down to 13 men Whitchurch just edged home against Old Monktonians.

WHITCHURCH v OLD MONKTONIANS
At Whitchurch. The visitors commenced operations, and soon registered a try by Walters. Soon after, Walters, picking up smartly, again scored, and at half time led by two tries to nil. The homesters resumed without Gay (injured). A smart movement by Whitchurch saw Jones score. Shortly after Howells dropped a splendid goal. Lewis was injured, and the homesters finished with thirteen men.

	Final score.	G.	T.	P'ts.
Whitchurch	1	1	6
Monktonians	0	2	6

On 14th October 1905 The Evening Express continued with their praise.

Trcedyrhŵ lost a £10 or £15 gate owing to the match being put off.

WHITCHURCH.
It was very gratifying to see the form shown by the Villagers against the strong team the Old Monktonians placed against them on Saturday last.
The Monktonians, too, were apparently stronger than for years past. Wayne-Mogran and Walters (late Treherbert) are a pair, who, in themselves, give the team an attacking and defending power which opponents will not be able to trifle with.

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.
Table up to October 7.

On 23rd October 1905 one of the final score lines was Whitchurch, 1 dropped goal; Caerphilly, nil.

Grangetown on the march, 4th November 1905, The Evening Express

Cardiff and District Schools Union

GRANGETOWN V. WHITCHURCH.

At the Jubilee Park. Grangetown continued their victorious career by a win over Whitchurch. The game was a fast and open one. During the first half there was not much between the teams, the only score being a penalty goal for Grangetown, which W. Cornish, the "burly" international, put over the bar. On resuming, the home boys soon attacked. After a nice run Ivor Roberts got across with a good try, which Cornish failed to convert. Shortly after this Aubrey Jones shone up for Whitchurch with a fine run, but was well tackled. Then Cornish showed his penchant for dropped goals by sending the ball over the bar.

Final score.		
Grangetown	2	1 11
Whitchurch	0	0 0

ELY V. ELEANOR-STREET.
At Grange Fields. The above-named schools

On the 18th November 1905, The Evening Express published a full match report on the Cardiff vs Newport match, you might remember J. L. Williams being mentioned earlier, here he scored one of the tries. More on J. L. Williams later.

...forwards dribbled back to their own 25 line. Then followed a brilliant round of passing, in which Bush, Gabe, and J. L. Williams were conspicuous, and the Whitchurch man after receiving a beautiful pass from Gabe, beat three or four men in great style, and dived over the line with a try in the corner. Winfield's kick failed. Within a minute of

In a local article on "FOOTBALL LEADERS" The Evening Express, on 9th December 1905, published pen portraits of some of the players coming to the for. Among them being Whitchurch lads, Norman Jones and Fred Potter....

Master NORMAN JONES, Whitchurch.
Master Norman Jones is a brother to Aubrey Jones, Windsor Jones, and D. E. Jones. He was born at Whitchurch on April 21st, 1895.



MASTER NORMAN JONES.
Copyright Photo by Wills, Cardiff. Block by Western Mail Limited.

He played for the city team against Pontypridd and Llanelli, and justified his selection. He is a very clever forward, and is always to the fore. Norman is very young, and will be available next year. If his football qualities increase as they have in the past, he should receive serious consideration for international honours.

Master FRED POTTER, Whitchurch.
Master Fred Potter was born at Whitchurch on September 9, 1892, and has spent the whole of his school life in Whitchurch School, where



MASTER FRED POTTER.
Copyright Photo by Wills, Cardiff. Block by Western Mail Limited.

He has learnt all his football. He plays at outside half, and has played for the Cardiff City team throughout this season in this position, and has, so far, fully justified his selection. Fred is very popular among his school fellows. He is at present the captain of the school team. Since the inclusion of Whitchurch School in the Cardiff League in 1904 Fred has played regularly without missing one match. He has played very well for the city team, and if he continues in his present form he ought to stand a good chance for international honours. He can give and take a ball in splendid fashion, and is very quick in taking advantage of any opportunities. When near the line he is very dangerous, and if there is the least chance over he goes. Not only can he run well, but he can also use his feet to good purpose, having dropped three goals for his team this season. He combines well with Beeson, his club mate. The city has a capital pair of halves in Potter and Conaghan. Potter has scored five tries and dropped three goals this season.

The Evening Express reported on the Whitchurch home game vs Newport 2nds, Whitchurch coming off second best. 18th November 1905

game.

WHITCHURCH V NEWPORT RESERVES

At Whitchurch. The visitors at once attacked, but poor half-back play in the home 25 enabled Whitchurch to clear, and the venue was changed to the centre. A fine rush by the Newport forwards forced a touch-in-goal. Then a foolish kick by one of the home forwards enabled Thomas to make a mark in an easy position, and Boots easily scored the goal. Dunstan was next prominent for a good run, but was tackled near the line. From the following scrum Buckley scored, but no goal resulted. Dunstan next crossed after a good run by Palmer, and Boots converted.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	P'ts.
Newport Seconds	2	1	11
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Immediately after the interval Whitchurch were given a penalty, and Howells kicked a lovely goal. Newport obtained another try through Bryant, but Boots could not convert. The visitors attacked continually, and Palmer scored, Boots converting.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	P'ts.
Newport Seconds	3	2	19
Whitchurch	1	0	3

COMMENTS.

Newport were the better team in every department. The home backs failed badly, while the forwards were very wild and erratic. Howells, the full-back, was the best man on his side.

PONTFYLICIAIS V AMMAN UNITED.

On the face of it this looks like a decent result under the circumstances, 23rd December 1905, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V CARDIFF RESERVES

CARDIFF SECONDS WIN EASILY.

The teams fielded late, the visitors playing several substitutes, while the Villagers had also several recruits in their ranks. Cardiff won the toss, and were favoured by a strong breeze. The opening stages were fast and exciting. Whitchurch pressed, and Randall Davies relieved with a smart run. Good passing by the Cardiff backs was nullified by resolute tackling. Whitchurch again became dangerous, Woods relieving with a lengthy kick. W. A. Jones was next prominent for an excellent individual effort, which ended in that playing dropping a smart goal. The Reserves continued to show better football.

Half-time score.			
	G.	T.	P'ts.
Cardiff Seconds	1	0	4
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Following the re-start Whitchurch became aggressive, and through their lack of finish Cardiff easily changed the venue. A smart rush by the visitors' forwards nearly resulted in Evans scoring, Howells saving in the nick of time. The Reserves by smart forward work still kept up the attack, and from a mis-field by the home full-backs W. A. Jones scored, but no goal resulted. Play was now of an uninteresting character.

Final score.			
	G.	T.	P'ts.
Cardiff Seconds	1	1	7
Whitchurch	0	0	0

REMARKS.

The visitors were the better side, and deserved their victory. In the forwards matters were even, but at half and three-quarter the visitors were superior, W. A. Jones especially being in good form.

PONTFYLICIAIS V CARDIFF CITY.

1906

There's a noticeable absence of reporting records available for any on, or, off field activities for Whitchurch Rugby Club for the first few weeks of 1906 and things become a bit 'nebular'.

Here's one that is not directly associated with the Whitchurch club but the village itself and its connection with the Cory family, the matches having been played at Whitchurch. The Evening Express 10th March 1906.

FOOTBALL AT THE DOCKS.

Rugby football is being taken up with great gusto at the Docks, and teams composed of office men are cropping up like the proverbial mushrooms. Last Saturday four teams did battle at Whitchurch. The first match was between Cory Brothers and The Docks' Moonlighters, a team picked from various offices. Cory's looked very smart in their white jerseys and knicks. They have a black badge in the form of a shield with the letter "C" in white worked thereon. Hussey kicked off for the Moonlighters. At the start Cory's pressed, and time after time were within an ace of scoring, but at the critical moment something went wrong, and the first half was pointless. On the re-start, Cory's were at it again, and the Moonlighters conceded several minors. Then the "night birds" did some attacking, but it came to naught. A free kick was awarded the Moonlighters, and a goal landed, but, as there were about nine men in front of the ball, the referee disallowed the points. Shortly before time Bradley ran under the posts with a try for Cory's, and Davies majorised, thus giving the all whites a five-point win.

For the winners Tom Price, Dai Davies, and C. Tombs were Trojans for work. Bennett dribbled away once or twice in brilliant fashion, and Spencer used his fine turn of speed to great advantage.

Hopkins, for the losers, was a very useful man, and Phillips and Garner did heaps of real hard work.

The second match was between Guest, Keen, and Nettelfold's and the Western Petroleum Company.

This was a very hard-fought match, the "oilmen" winning by the big margin of one goal six tries to nil. Heslop scored four tries for the winners. The game was not so one-sided, however, as the score would seem to indicate, but the "Pets" were by far the better team, and fully deserved their victory.

After the matches tea was taken at the Fox and Hounds.

FISH-TUSH.

Potter showing his class, 17th March 1906, The Evening Express.

came with St. David's good winners by three points.

	Final score.	G.	T.	P'ts.
St. David's	0	1	3
Grangetown	0	0	0

WHITCHURCH v. COURT-ROAD.

Without the services of Moon, Yorath, and Church, three sturdy forwards, Whitchurch were handicapped in this game at Sophia Gardens. Potter was here, there, and everywhere, and the crowd who watched his doings were unanimous that he deserved his international cap. Beacon was another fine player for the Villagers. Passing was good, but the high wind resulted in poor fielding. The Courts were robbed of one try through a knock-on, when all opposition was beaten. The Courts from the result—a pointless draw—should improve. They were the smaller side.

	Final score.	G.	T.	P'ts.
Court-road	0	0	0
Whitchurch	0	0	0

Division II.

ST. PETER'S v. MOUNT STUART-SQUARE.

The Whitchurch ground is getting well used providing an attractive venue for others, 24th March 1906, The Evening Express

they have jogged along.

WHITCHURCH:

Whilst Cardiff and Newport were engaged on the Cardiff Arms Park representatives of the Great Western Railway at Newport and Cardiff were occupied in settling their little differences at Whitchurch. The Cardiffians proved themselves much the better side all round, and won by two tries to nil.

2nd April 1906, The Evening express, a comfortable win for Whitchurch at home to Victoria Penarth aided and abetted by our Welsh international cap 'Potter'.

tained of the results on 'Change to-day (Monday).

WHITCHURCH V. VICTORIA PENARTH.
At Whitchurch. The village won easily by 4 goals (1 dropped goal), 2 tries, to nil. Potter, the international half, was in great form, scoring 2 tries, dropping a goal, and converted 4 tries.

MONMOUTH V. VICTORIA.
At Monmouth, in fine weather. The

One for the purists, who would have known that Whitchurch was considered to have been the chosen venue, as a neutral ground, for one of the top competitions, the Mallett Cup semi final? The Evening Express 12th April 1906.

market will close this afternoon on Tuesday morning next for the Easter holidays.

FOOTBALL

MALLET CUP CHAMPIONSHIP
(SEMI-FINAL).

ROATH v. MACKINTOSH,
WHITCHURCH GROUND,
GOOD FRIDAY MORNING.
KICK-OFF, ELEVEN O'CLOCK. e260812

MATCH OF THE SEASON.

BARBARIANS v. PENARTH,
AT PENARTH, 3.30 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY.
TRAINS AT FREQUENT INTERVALS. e2172

Bridgend Football Club Sports, Easter Monday, April 16th, 1906.—Foot Racing and Horse Racing.—For entry forms apply W. Bradshaw, Pen-y-bryn, Bridgend. e2188

BASEBALL

Another game followed this between Cardiff Quins and Northern

1906 Cardiff Romilly beat Mackintosh in the final 3 - 0

11th September 1906 and the announcement of the forthcoming Cardiff trial in The Evening Express, with two Whitchurch men in the reserves line up.

FOOTBALL

CARDIFF PRACTICE MATCH.

Cardiff's annual preliminary canter will come off on Saturday, and the committee had to select two teams on Monday evening from about 40 applicants, among whom are included several promising young players. With the exception of R. C. Thomas, none of the regular backs of last season will turn out for the first team, but there will be a good muster of the forwards. The form of the substitutes, and also that of the Reserves, will be watched closely, with a view to further coaching in case of any real aptitude being shown. The teams selected were:—

First Team: Back, F. Woods; three-quarter backs, W. A. Jones, R. C. Thomas, T. G. Thomas (Maesteg), and E. C. Phillips (Mackintosh); half-backs, Randall Davies and Edgar Thomas; forwards, G. Northmore, J. Brown, D. Westacott, E. Harding, E. Rumbelow, W. Neill, J. Pugsley, F. Smith, J. Powell, and L. George.

Reserves: Back, E. R. Evans (Aberdare); three-quarter backs, D. Williams (Llandaff and Exeter College), E. C. M. Wilmott (Cardiff and London Welsh), Fred Jones (Machen), and T. Reardon (Adamsdown); half-backs, W. E. Lewis (Whitchurch), and G. G. Shellaber; forwards, G. Yewlett (Roath Hornets), D. A. Hann (Aberdare), H. R. Jellings (Llanishen), J. Casey (Pill Harriers), J. Thomas (Pill Harriers), E. Lewis (Cardiff Reserves), J. Evans (Whitchurch), and G. Christopher (Cardiff Northern).

Kick-off at four o'clock.

Mr. C. S. Arthur (secretary) reported that 3,500 application forms for workmen's tickets had been issued, and it was decided that these must be presented by next Saturday week. Any forms not presented by that day will be cancelled, and fresh applications considered. The tickets will be issued to-day (Tuesday), Thursday, and Friday, and also on the same days of next week, on the presentation of application forms.

Something is going wrong, 22nd September 1906
The Evening Express. What's happening?

From the description it seems that the recreation ground mentioned might be just off Velindre Road and the fire station nearby at the corner of Heol Don, many older heads will remember the fire station there. Whitchurch Library was built in 1904, Whitchurch Hospital, opened in 1908 with planning and construction going on at this time.

next week.

FOOTBALL AT WHITCHURCH

This season rugby football at Whitchurch so far as local talent is concerned will be represented by the Whitchurch Juniors. The juniors indulged in a practice game this afternoon, and evidently have a smart side. An effort is being made to obtain the recreation ground for playing purposes and the fire-station for headquarters.

BARRY DISTRICT V CARDIFF

The Evening Express 22nd Sept 1906 "OLD MONKTONIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB. This oldest old-boys team in Cardiff have this season secured the Whitchurch Rugby ground. This afternoon a large number of players turned out to practice, and some good talent was revealed. A very successful season is expected".

Difficulties arising and Treorchy having their own problems. 20th October 1906 The Evening Express

TREORKY.

Matters have been rather in a quiescent state at Treorky of late, and last Saturday the premiers were disappointed by the non-appearance of Whitchurch. It is true that they were notified on Friday that the opposing team would not turn up, but then it was too late to arrange another fixture.

The Treorky Club are rather put out owing to the laxity shown by players in taking their positions in the teams when away matches are being played. For example, when the team went away to Pontardawe they were short of no less than seven of their regular players, not one of the regular three-quarters turning up.

Didn't see this coming, "trouble at mill" - 20th October 1906 The Evening Express.

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TREORCHY v. GELLI ALEXANDRAS.

The fact that Whitchurch failed to fulfil their fixture at Griffin Park, Pentre, caused great disappointment to the Treorchy team. The Whitchurch secretary wrote on Friday night stating that the team had been disbanded. The Treorchy team at the last moment arranged to play with Gelli Alexandras. The game was of a scrappy nature, a display of good football being impossible on account of the sodden state of the ground. Treorchy were lucky in obtaining two tries in the first half, put in by D. James and J. Williams. The former was converted by Attwood. T. J. Lewis secured an unconverted try for the homesters in the second half. Final score:

	G.	T.	Pts.
Treorchy	1	2	11
Gelli Alexandras	0	0	0

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TON-PENTRE v. PENARTH PARISH

Junior rugby still going strong, but no oval ball in sight, 22nd October 1906 The Evening Express.

losses. The crews are safe.—Reuter.

CARNIVAL AT WHITCHURCH.

A carnival, under the auspices of the Whitchurch Young Men's Christian Association, was held on Saturday, preceded by a tug-of-war contest, in which the winners were as follow:—Seniors' open competition, Abergorky; seniors' local competition, Cardiff City Police; juniors' open competition, Whitchurch Juniors Rugby Football Club. The carnival, headed by the Whitchurch Brass Band and fire brigade, paraded the principal streets, collecting en route in aid of the funds of the Young Men's Christian Association.

At the moment things are confusing, the omens for Whitchurch over the last few months have not looked good, but it's difficult to understand whether this is a junior match or a first XV 27th October 1906 The Evening Express.

postponed to Friday, November 9.

**ST. DAVID'S V. WHITCHURCH.
POTTER COMING BACK.**

By far the largest crowd of spectators patronised this game at the Sophia Gardens. Whitchurch forwards played gallantly, but the sturdy Saints were too strong and scientific for the villagers. Shamus Hinchey and Sullivan, the two St. David's halves, played such a great game that it was the unanimous opinion that, although not selected for the town team, they are the two best half-backs playing in the town. Tries were scored for St. David's by Kelly, William Donovan, and Sullivan, one of which was converted. Potter, who played so well last season for Whitchurch, Cardiff, and Wales, has, after a brief trial of work, returned to his school, but as boys re-joining are not allowed to play for four weeks, the brilliant international half had to play the role of spectator to-day. When the interval is over, he will no doubt greatly strengthen Whitchurch, and, no doubt, again secure his Welsh cap.

	G.	T.	Pts.
St. David's	1	2	11
Whitchurch	0	0	0

ABERAVON TRIAL MATCH.

	G.	T.	Pts.
Strines	0	0	0

As if the emphasise the point we then have this.....

27th October 1906 – The County Observer and Monmouthshire Central Advertiser

Old Monks playing a home game at Whitchurch

Football.

OLD MONKTONIANS V. USK.

This match was played at Whitchurch. The visitors commenced operations, and were at once put on the defensive, Eventually Williams forced his way across for the homesters. No goal resulted. Usk afterwards had the better of the play, E. Saunders nearly scoring. After hard forward play, Jenkins increased the Monktonians score. The visitors failed to reply. Scores:—

	G.	T.	P'ts.
Old Monktonians.....	0	2	6
Usk	0	0	0

23rd November 1906 The Evening Express showed the team selections for the Cardiff vs Bridgend 'Inter Town' match with N. Jones; W. Welsh and F. Potter all of Whitchurch, selected for Cardiff. Fred Potter positioned at scrum half, Jones and Welsh at centre.

J. M'Intyre.

**SCHOOLBOYS' INTER-TOWN MATCH.
CARDIFF V. BRIDGEND.**

At Bridgend. Cardiff: Back, S. Roberts (St. Monica's); three-quarter backs, N. Jones and W. Welsh (Whitchurch), F. Saar (Adamsdown), and Hurlow (Grange); half-backs, S. Jones (St. Mary's) and F. Potter (Whitchurch); forwards, Jefferies and Williams (Grange), Woods (St. John's), Smith and Crabtree (Court-road), Donovan (St. David's), Pervoe (South Church-street), and Hutchings (Cogan). Bridgend: Back, T. Deere (Bridgend); three-quarter backs, Eddie Howells (Ogmore), Dick Kynan (Ogmore), J. Sutcliffe (captain) (Bridgend), and Ivor Down (Cefn); half-backs, J. Caswill (Cefn) and Evan Jones (Ogmore); forwards, J. Smith (Cefn), J. Fitzgerald (Bridgend), Phipps (Pontycymmer), Miles (Pontycymmer), Martin (Tondu), D. J. Brown (Cefn), Whiting (Ogmore), and H. Hopkins (Tondu).

PONTYPRIDD V. BRIDGEND.

At Pontypridd. Bridgend: Back, W. Pennell; three-

24th December 1906 The Evening Express showed the team selections for a 'Junior' match against Ponty.

BOXING-DAY MATCHES
WHITCHURCH OLD BOYS V. PONTYPRIDD JUNIORS.
 At. Whitchurch Football Ground. Kick-off at 2.30 sharp. Whitchurch Old Boys: Back, T. Bennett; three-quarter backs, A. Jones, W. A. Llewellyn, S. Jones, and T. Harwood; half-backs, F. Potter and T. I. Richards; forwards (selected from), J. Brown (captain), G. Lewis, S. Brown, T. Grimshaw, T. Broad, H. Rowlands, T. Paddick, E. Boyer, P. Lewis.
PENYLAN V. LYDNEY.
 At Lydney. Penylan: Back, P. S. Howell: three-

Then, 'out of the blue', this result turns up, 26th December 1906 The Evening Express.

Things are not quite what they seem.

LOCAL RUGBY MATCHES.
 Pontypridd Juniors, nil; St. Mary's, Treforest, nil.
 Merthyr Taff Vale, 1 try; Merthyr Great Western, nil.
 Pontypool Reserves, 2 tries; Pontypool Thursday, nil.
 Tylorstown, 9 points; Ferndale, 5 points.
 Bridgend 'Quins, 2 goals, 1 try; Artillery Volunteers, 1 try.
 Whitchurch, 1 goal, 2 tries; Llandaff Yard, nil.
 Aberavon Reserves, 1 goal, 3 tries; Briton Ferry Crusaders, 2 goals.

Association Results

The writing seems to be on the wall by the end of 1906. Very little material became available during research and what there is bears little resemblance to the once thriving, active club we've been reading about up until now.

1907

The early records show some references to junior Whitchurch rugby and the Cardiff and District Schools League 'Senior' Division (e.g. Ste Peter's v Whitchurch, 25th January and Court Road v Whitchurch at Sophia Gardens 1st Feb 1907)

A schoolboy match clearly stated, 9th March 1907, The Evening Express.

n.	South Church-street	0	1	3
zn	GRANETOWN V. WHITCHURCH.			
G.	At the Marle these schools played a point-			
il-	less draw. Play was exciting throughout.			
a	The first half was very evenly contested.			
as	Hurlow, for Grange, and Norman Jones, for			
nd	Whitchurch, had hard lines in not scoring			
	for their respective sides. In the second			
	moiety Grange had the best of matters. Dan			
	Roberts should have scored, but for a foul			
	by a Whitchurch player. Jones played			
	grandly for Whitchurch, his defence being			
ed	splendid. Jefferies, for Grange, was a real			
ly	glutton for work.			
as	Final score. G. T. P'ts.			
s,	Granetown	0	0	0
in	Whitchurch	0	0	0
er	ADAMSDOWN V. ORWYS-ROAD.			
ny	Played at Roath Park. One of the best			

Having assumed with uncertainty and suspicion, The Evening Express 5th August 1907, published this little snippet which tends to clear things up and confirms what we had already suspected.

Mr 'Wonnocott', mentioned, was landlord of The Fox and Hounds and it seems likely that the ground, also mentioned, was the one directly behind the pub.

W.	will present themselves for the test.
st,	WHITCHURCH CLUB.
iss	A well-attended meeting took place at the
um	Fox and Hounds Hotel, Whitchurch, on Satur-
um	day night, with the object of re-forming the
as	Whitchurch Rugby Club.—It was decided to
	run first and second fifteens. Thanks to the
	generosity of Mr. Wonnocott, an excellent
	ground and dressing-rooms have been placed
	at the club's disposal.—It was unanimously
	decided to invite Mr. J. H. Cory, J.P., to
	become president.—Mr. T. L. Williams was
	elected treasurer; Mr. D. Davies, 48, Merthyr-
	road, Whitchurch, hon. secretary; and Mr.
	Hugh Warwick, hon. assistant secretary.
	FOOTBALL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

So, to all intents and purposes we are back up and running.....

7th September 1907 The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH REVIVAL.
After a season's inactivity, the Whitchurch Rugby Club has been revived with an entirely new set of officials. Two fifteens have been formed, and an excellent fixture list for both teams arranged.

What a way to start a new season with a 'reformed' team, a home fixture against 'a Cardiff Team'. 6th September 1907 The Evening Express.

Kimber, C. Spackman, S. Buck, W. Connerly, W. ...
WHITCHURCH V. A CARDIFF TEAM.
 At Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, W. Lewis; three-quarter backs, W. Jones, Fred Lewis, E. Stephens, and E. Bodger; half-backs, W. Wilkins and Evans; forwards, H. Warwick (captain), W. Legge, J. Chorley, M. Grant, S. Watkins, L. Amos, R. Arthur, and M. Edwards.
CARDIFF NORTHERN V. PENYGRAIG.
 At Penygraig. Northerns: Back, S. Stowe; three-quarter backs, C. Nelms, J. Beasley, W. Huntley, and

The team selection for the home match against Dinas Powis was published in The Evening Express on 20th September 1907

selected from, Aubrey Smith, Ivor Morgan, Edgar Morgan, George Hayward, H. Hiams, H. Hunt, S. J. Thomas, P.C. Ben Davies (Mumbles), and D. Davies.
WHITCHURCH V. DINAS POWIS.
 At Whitchurch. Kick-off, 4.0 p.m. Whitchurch: Back, W. Jones; three-quarter backs, E. Bodger, E. Stephens, Gwyn Thomas, and H. Turner; half-backs, W. Tilley and E. Williams; forwards, H. Warwick (captain), J. Pritchard, W. Legge, W. Deane, G. Walters, L. Amos, S. Watkins, and L. Davey.
CARDIFF V. DISTRICT XV

At the same time, Merthyr (Northern Union team) announced the signing of a former Whitchurch man who had gone north.

New Player for Merthyr (N U)
 The Merthyr Northern Union team have signed on Windsor Jones, of Wigan, formerly of Whitchurch, Cardiff, and he will play in the three-quarter division against Batley tomorrow.
To-morrow's Matches

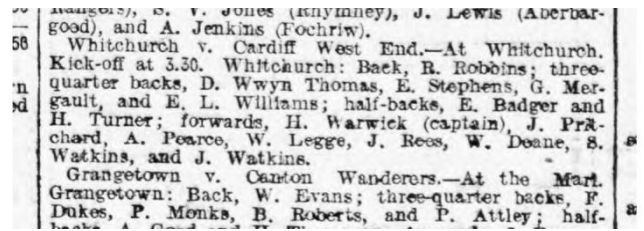
One of the fixtures published on 11th October 1907 was Whitchurch vs Pencoed at Whitchurch and also Whitchurch seconds vs Cardiff Rovers at Llandaff Fields, telling us quite unequivocally that things are up and running. On 14th October the rugby results gave us:

Whitchurch (1 Try) 3pts; Pencoed nil.

On 4th October the fixture schedules show Whitchurch at home to Penarth Seconds, the match report appearing on 5th October in The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V. PENARTH SECONDS
 At Whitchurch. The seaisiders were early aggressive, and smart work by Stanley Smith enabled Steve Smith to score a grand try, which was not converted. This reverse roused the villagers, and a strong rush by the home pack enabled Gwyn Thomas to equalise. Robbins failed to convert. Play continued to be fast and even.
 Half-time score. G. T. Pts.
 Whitchurch 0 1 3
 Penarth Seconds 0 1 3
 At the re-start the villagers were prominent for some fine loose rushes, but a drizzling rain having set in effective handling was impossible. Penarth broke away, and, outpacing the defence, Steve Smith scored his second try.
 Whitchurch strove hard to equalise, and Mergoult knocked on, with the line at his mercy. The seaisiders again attacked, and Jones crossed with their third try, which was converted.
 Penarth were showing superior football behind, but, unfortunately, their play was marred by roughness and bad language. Whitchurch strove valiantly to reduce the lead, but the defence of the visitors was sound, and there was no further scoring.
 Final score: G. T. Pts.
 Penarth Seconds 1 2 11
 Whitchurch 0 1 3

On 25th October 1907 The Evening Express published the Whitchurch team selection for the home match against Cardiff West End



On 2nd November 1907 The Evening Express published columns assessing the various regional rugby leagues and divisions, amongst them stating that “Whitchurch have a weak side this season” in the Cardiff Schools Union. But, in the Cardiff and District Union printed: “Whitchurch gave Cardiff West a trouncing by three tries to a mark goal. On actual play the Villagers were more points better than the West. Rees made a very fine try for Whitchurch, but David almost immediately equalised by a mark drop goal. Stephens and Turner made victory certain for the Village by adding tries. Turner was in great form, and made many fine openings”. The column then showed the Div 1 League table, 2 games, into the season followed by a sentence that read: “Dinas Powis and Whitchurch are members of this division but do not play for league points”.

On 5th November 1907 The Evening Express publish scores from previous matches showing: Whitchurch, (1 Goal) - 5 points; Cardiff ‘Quins, nil

On 5th November 1907 The Evening Express paint a more rosier picture with this cutting (right) of a trial match with the Cardiff Schools in which a number of Whitchurch lads take part.



29th November 1907 in The Evening Express, here's a few fixtures of local interest involving neighbouring teams with Whitchurch playing a home fixture against Old Monktonians at Llandaff North. (Notice that Llandaff 'North' is now used).

Tongwynlais v. Cardiff West, at Tongwynlais.
 Tongwynlais Seconds v. Metal-street Old Boys, at Cardiff.
 Merthyr Seconds v. Machen, at Machen.
 All Saints' v. Llandaff City, at Llandaff.
 Grangetown v. Mackintosh, on the Barracks Field.
 Whitchurch v. Old Monktonians, at Llandaff North.
 Whitchurch Seconds v. Aber Scarlets, at Whitchurch.
 St. Teilo's v. Canton United.

A bit of 'French flair' in the village....The Evening Express 21st December 1907

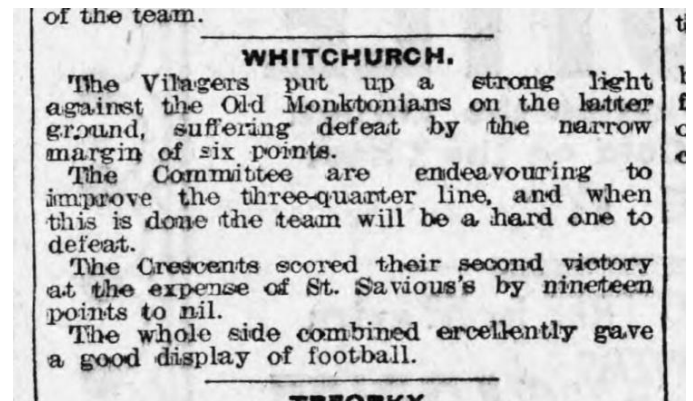
do without a girl" at the club's dinner.
 G. MERGAULT, Cardiff Reserves' latest recruit, is a young Frenchman, full of British ideas as regards sport. In his college days he won fame as a sprinter, wrestler, and long-pole jumper, securing for the latter the championship of Western France. On coming to this country he was introduced to the Whitchurch Club. Improvement was noticed with every match, and as he possesses great speed, pluck, and dash, besides an excellent idea of how the game should be played, he should get on. Whitchurch folks are sorry to lose so promising a player, but at the same time wish him every success.

While on 24th December 1907 the fixtures showed a Christmas day match for Whitchurch 1sts at home to Canton Harlequins and something of a holiday festival match 'Mr Peter Chard's XV vs Whitchurch Reserves'. With no time to rest a Boxing Day match was scheduled for Whitchurch Reserves away at Tylorstown.

1907 saw a return to regular fixtures, but again, reports on matches were few and far between. Thankfully, the club has put its troubles behind it, but for how long?

1908

A brief but welcome report for the match against old rivals Old Monktonians, The Evening Express, 10th January 1908.



On 25th January 1908 The Evening Express published this brief report on the Whitchurch home match against local rivals Birchgrove which "aroused much interest".



Having been taken to task in previous seasons on the odd occasion, it's inevitable that the circle goes around, back in the day, the home team paid the travel fees of the away side and home fixtures were a way to generate income. Loss of income was crippling to clubs. 11th March 1908 The Evening Express.

a NEW MATCH TO BE ARRANGED ON THE same ground.
An appeal lodged by Whitchurch against Tongwynlais for £2 for failing to keep a fixture was adjourned in order to hear the version of the club in question.—J. Pritchard's application for transfer from the Barbarians to Grange Institute was ruled out of order.—E. Smith was suspended for one week, on a charge of "using insulting language" in the Romilly v. Mackintosh match, on the referee's report. Only a nominal penalty was inflicted in view of the fact that the referee did not press the charge.—A second complaint was laid against Tongwynlais, this time by Canton Rovers, for not fielding a full team on Saturday last. This matter was also adjourned for the attendance of the Tongwynlais representative.

PROPOSED BENEFIT MATCH

Under orders, 18th March 1908 The Evening Express.

New Fixtures Ordered by Cardiff Rugby Union

The committee of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union met at the Bristol and South Wales Hotel on Tuesday, Mr. A. H. Williams in the chair.—Endeavours are being made to hold the semi-final of the Mallett Cup at Whitchurch on Good Friday. Failing this, Canton and Canton Wanderers will meet at Whitchurch on March 23.—In compliance with the committee's instructions, the representative of the Tongwynlais Club appeared, and stated that they did not field against Whitchurch owing to snow being on the ground. The committee's decision was for another fixture to be arranged or the Whitchurch Club to receive £1.—Canton Rovers' claim for points against Tongwynlais for not fielding was acceded to.—The claim of Canton Wanderers against the Macks for league points was considered, but, owing to the absence of the league referee, a fresh fixture was ordered to be arranged.

Newport "Mobbing" Incident

A full programme of fixtures over Easter, 16th April 1908, The Evening Express.

Benevolent Society, at the Buttrills, Barry, to-morrow; kick-off, 10.45 a.m.

WHITCHURCH'S EASTER PROGRAMME.

The villagers visit Birchgrove to-morrow, on Saturday they entertain Tongwynlais, and on Easter Monday have a visit from Machen, the Rhymney Valley League champions.

Mackintosh v. St. Alban's, at the Barracks Field, Good Friday morning; kick-off at eleven o'clock.

Cardiff West v. Cowbridge, at Cowbridge, on Easter Monday.

Llandaff City v. Welsh Tauntonians, at Whitchurch, on Easter Wednesday.

Association

Meanwhile, Llandaff City play a home fixture in Whitchurch.

Here's a turn up for the books, the club now clearly see the District League set up as a way to progress. 17th August 1908, The Evening Express.

Abersychan, vice-captain.

WHITCHURCH AND THE CARDIFF LEAGUE.
Whitchurch this year are entering the first division of the Cardiff and District League. Although formerly members of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union, Whitchurch took no part in competition games. The new departure is expected to give the game an impetus in the locality, besides adding interest to the league programme.

The Whitchurch season opens on September 12, when Mr. Randall Davies, Cardiff's half-back, will, by permission, take a team to meet the villagers.

RUGBY AT DINAS POWIS.

Whitchurch Crescents and Ton Juniors advertising for fixtures. 26th August 1908 The Evening Express

White.—Apply James Evans, Secretary, 41, Stoughton-street, Grangetown, Cardiff. e1563w27

TONGWYNLAIS JUNIORS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB Require Fixtures; average age, 13.—Apply Secretary, Ironbridge-road. e1574w27

WHITCHURCH CRESCENTS R.F.C. require Fixtures for the coming season; average age, 13-20.—Apply G. Stephens, Secretary, 22, Old Church-road, Whitchurch. e269w26

WYNDHAM JUNIORS A.F.C. require Fixtures for

This tends to suggest that the club side Whitchurch Crescents have been formed as a separate club to that of Whitchurch RFC.

14th September 1908 The Evening Express. 'A heavy debt' burdens the club, but on the bright side, the 'squad' looked 'useful'.

WHITCHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.
The annual meeting was held on Saturday at the Fox and Hounds Hotel. Last year's committee will again act, and Mr. D. Davies will fill the post of hon. secretary. Mr. J. H. Cory, J.P., Coryton, has again been invited to the presidency. The balance-sheet showed a deficiency on the year's working of £9 10s. 5d. The team will this year compete in the senior division of the Cardiff and District League. The players available should make a useful side, and, in spite of the serious handicap of a heavy debt for a local club, a good season is anticipated.

SPRINT AT BRYNMAWR.

A brief update on our village teams, 26th September 1908, The Evening Express

F. Yeo, from Exmouth, is the only stranger who will figure in the back division.

WHITCHURCH.
Griffiths, Sprudd, Robbins, and Attley play well, and with a few changes in front the Villagers will be heard more of.

The Crescents, with Stephens off the field from the interval, did well at Tongwynlais, and with luck they should turn the tables at the next match. They have the making of an excellent fifteen fore and aft.

The number of 0 – 0 draws we've witnessed over these years is quite surprising, it must have been a great tussle between teams to grapple away for an hour and a half in all conditions and come away as equals.

14th November 1908 The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH V GRANGETOWN			
At Whitchurch. Grangetown were first to attack, but clever tactics by Randall Davies drove them back to the centre. Lewis was prominent for clever play, Attley saving the situation by a good tackle. At the interval there was no score. During the second half the defence on both sides were tested. Randall Davies, Griffiths, and Robbins attacked cleverly, but in vain.			
Final score.		G.	T. P'ts.
Whitchurch	0	0	0
Grangetown	0	0	0

19th December 1908 The Evening Express.
The league set up not too appealing.

Rhymney II	2	2	0	0	..	4	
Aberargoed II	4	1	1	2	..	4	
Merthyr Juniors	5	0	3	2	..	2	
Rhymney Scarlets	5	0	4	1	..	1	
CARDIFF AND DISTRICT SENIORE.							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.		
Wanderers	10	9	1	0	..	13	
Canton	3	6	1	1	..	13	
Mackintosh	5	4	0	1	..	9	
Grangetown	6	4	1	1	..	9	
Cardiff 'Quine	10	4	6	0	..	3	
Adamsdown	6	1	4	1	..	3	
Cardiff Rovers	7	1	5	1	..	3	
Bonilly	2	1	1	0	..	2	
Whitchurch	7	0	6	1	..	1	
Fruturers	8	0	7	1	..	1	
NORTHERN UNION.							
	P.	W.	L.	D.	G.	T.	Pts.
Wisan	14	13	1	0	53	63	123

The Christmas matches took their toll and this Boxing Day match was probably one too many, 26th December 1908, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V PORTHCRAWL			
At Whitchurch. Both teams suffered from absentees after the matches of the previous day. The villagers were first to attack, and Llewellyn's failure to take the final transfer after a passing bout lost a certain try. Smart play by Randal Davies enabled the homesters to keep up the pressure, but Porthcawl relieved with a fine forward rush. There was no score at half-time.			
Resuming, the visitors' came away with a dribble and Wilkins crossed, Jones converting. This reverse roused the homesters, Lewis especially being constantly prominent. Although play was seldom out of the visitors' half they could only register minors, several of which were near things for tries. The Villagers' luck was quite out, and they had hard lines in being defeated after having three parts of the play. Final:—Porthcawl, 1 goal; Whitchurch, nil.			

1909

The Evening Express 5th February 1909, the team selection for the Whitchurch vs Cardiff Harlequins match

wasley, A. Hoies, T. Pteest, W. Robbins, P. Gilbert, J. Edwards, W. Edwards, J. Watkins, G. Hughes, and E. Evans.
 Whitchurch v. Cardiff Harlequins, at Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, R. Robbins; three-quarter backs, G. Boughton, Garnett Nicholls, W. E. Lewis, and E. Stephens; half-backs, R. J. Rhys and Fred Potter; forwards, A. Pearce (captain), W. Sprudd, A. Elliott, R. Hardy, A. Cometson, W. Legge, G. Bowen, and W. Lewis or Jenkins.
 Taff Juniors v. Cardiff Centrals, at Sophia Gardens.
 Northern Union

On 12th February 1909 fixture lists showed Whitchurch playing Wanderers at Jubilee Park

The Evening Express 13th February 1909, with Whitchurch on the march.

and that hope should never be abandoned.
WHITCHURCH.
 The Villagers have won three matches in succession, and so far escaped defeat since the New Year. Much of the success is due to the excellent work of Skipper Pearce. Garnett Nicholls, who scored the winning points on Saturday last, is showing improved form each week, whilst Potter and Rhys fed their backs finely.
CARDIFF ROPEWORKS BASEBALL

17th February 1909, The Evening Express, the committee have decided.....(It's strange that clubs could participate in 'league' fixtures but have no interest in having the points awarded for wins and draws).

FOOTBALL
 Mr. A. H. Williams presided over the weekly meeting of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union at the Bristol and South Wales Hotel on Tuesday. The complaint received from the Dinas Powis Club re Newport Thirds not fulfilling a fixture was sent on to the Welsh Rugby Union. Canton Wanderers were awarded two points against Whitchurch, as also were Cardiff Quins against Fruiterers, both in respect of non-fulfilment of fixtures. As an outcome of this a resolution was passed that in future cases of this kind the club at fault will be fined 7s. 6d., in addition to the penalty the committee may think fit to impose.
 With regard to the complaint by clubs of the condition of Jubilee Park, the secretary (Mr. E. W. John) was asked to write to the parks superintendent (Mr. Pettigrew).
 It was decided to have the Marathon race commenced at Barry, and conclude with six laps on the Cardiff Arms Park. Entry forms will be sent out next week.
PILL HARRIERS R.F.C. require home match February 27th; guarantee given.—Apply Hon. Sec., 11, Marlborough-road, Newport. c543p19
PEMBROKE DOCK LICENSED
 VICTUALLERS' BANQUET.

On 22nd February 1909 the rugby results showed Whitchurch 0Llanishen 0

The Evening Express 5th March 1909, the team selection for the Whitchurch Mallett Cup tie against Cardiff

Lewis, and J. Rees.
SECOND ROUND MALLET CUP.
 Whitchurch v. Cardiff, at Whitchurch.—Whitchurch: Back, R. Robbins; three-quarter backs, E. Stephens, Garnett Nicholls, W. E. Lewis, and A. G. Jones (or Ivor Davies); half-backs, Fred Potter and A. Thomas; forwards (selected from), A. Pearce (captain), E. Robbins, D. W. Jenkins, W. Sprudd, J. Fox, W. Legge, J. M. Williams, H. Warwick, A. Elliott, and R. Handy.
 Grange Windsors v. Canton Rovers.—Grange Windsors: Back, Kelleher; three-quarter backs (selected from), McCarthy, Taylor,

The Evening Express 6th March 1909, interesting to note that, at this point, Whitchurch had not lost in 1909.

micals.
Aberavon Excelsiors v. Aberavon St. Marys.
WHITCHURCH V CARDIFF QUINS.
The enforced abandonment of this match, in connection with the Mallett Cup-tie, caused much disappointment. The teams have met twice this season, and defeated each other by the margin of a try. It was natural, therefore, that a close contest was expected. The Harlequins certainly have a better position in the league table than the visitors, but the latter have been doing well since the New Year, not having sustained a single defeat. The match will have to be re-arranged.

Six Inches of Snow.
There was a snowfall of quite six inches at Aberdare this morning.
Rugby football in Leicestershire is completely held up to-day, and a number of Association games were also cancelled.

ALL MATCHES

10th April 1909 The Evening Express writing on a home loss against Penylan.

resulting.

WHITCHURCH V. PENYLAN.

At Whitchurch. Whitchurch commenced operations. A smart burst by Potter enabled the homesters to attack, but Lewis cleared in good style. Penylan, by good passing, changed the venue. The tackling of Stephens and Nicholls was keen and sure, and Isitt put the villagers in a good position by a smart run. Led by Rees and T. Davies, the visiting forwards rushed play to the home line, where M. Davies burst through a bunch of opponents and scored in the corner. Tom Davies converted with a fine kick. The resumption saw Whitchurch again attacking, Warwick and Pritchard dribbling through the defence, but Ranji came to the rescue, and saved nicely.

After lemons, Lewis worked his way through the home defence and scored a clever try, Davies again converting from a difficult angle. Nothing daunted, the Whitchurch men re-started with vigour, and play for a time was in Penylan territory, Legge, Williams, and Pearce being prominent. Williams made a good attempt at goal from a penalty. Then the visitors started another bout of passing, Lewis crossing in a favourable position, but the goal-kick failed. A clean and open game ended with the score:—Penylan, 2 goals 1 try; Whitchurch, nil.

TREORRY V. NANTYMOEL.

This is an extract from The Evening Express 4th September 1909 outlining some of the issues the Cardiff and District Union addressed in a recent meeting, the last paragraph relates to Whitchurch involvement.

8th September 1909, The Evening Express, (bottom right and below) this cutting provides us with a measure of the strength of the Whitchurch team at that time, here we have the team selection for the representative Cardiff and District Union side with b. Lewis; D. Abbott; H. Tout; W. Holtham and H. Warwick, all from Whitchurch in with a chance of being selected. You'll also notice that Fred Potter (Whitchurch) is in the Cardiff 2nds team at outside half and Johnny Williams captain of the Cardiff 1st team.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION.
On Tuesday next entries to the three leagues close. Clubs cannot be accepted after that date.

Old players desirous of officiating as referees are requested to send in applications at once.

It is probable this season the Mallett Cup will be open to all affiliated clubs. The matter is to be discussed with the Cardiff Football Club next Tuesday week.

The re-play for the semi-final of the shield between Birchgrove and Cardiff Welsh, fixed for to-day, is the outcome of the decision of the Welsh Football Union and Union of Leagues that a referee has not the power to allow an ordered off player to return in a cup match when extra time is played.

Some of last season's referees have organised a "Cardiff and District Rugby Union Referees' Society" to protest against Welsh Union referees being appointed, as last season, for the semi and final cup matches, and to arrange a tariff of expenses, payable by home clubs. Messrs. W. J. Hart, R. Williams, and the writer have been asked to meet a deputation of the new society next week.

The Union's strength this season will be about thirty clubs. Penylan, Roxburgh, Llandaff, Lisvane, and Whitchurch, although affiliated, will not compete for points.

On Tuesday next the District team to meet

Football.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION

The usual weekly meeting of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union was held at the Bristol and South Wales Hotel on Tuesday evening, Mr. A. H. Williams in the chair. The Secretary reported that nine clubs had entered for each of the first, second, and third divisions.

In reference to the withdrawal of the Canton Club from the league competition a deputation was received from the Canton Club. Having heard their reasons for the action, the meeting decided that the league representatives should consider the matter at the next weekly meeting.

With regard to the failure of the Barnstaple Club to pay the guarantee money to the Cardiff Harlequins, the county union intimated that they had ordered them to pay, and had refused their entry to the senior competition until they did so.

Cardiff Players at Practice

In view of their opening match with a district fifteen on Saturday next, the members of the Cardiff premier Rugby team had an informal practice on the Cardiff Arms Park on Tuesday. All the regular backs of the first fifteen turned out, as well as several of the forwards. For Saturday's match the club committee has selected the following team:—

Cardiff: Back, H. B. Winfield; three-quarter backs, J. L. Williams (captain), E. A. Gibbs, W. Spiller, and L. M. Dyke; half-backs, P. F. Bush and W. Morgan; forwards (selected from), F. Smith, E. Smith, J. Brown, J. Powell, J. Daley, J. Casey, F. Gaccon, W. Yewlett, Pike, Scanton, W. Casey, and Gillard.

The Seconds' Trial Match

After the match between the Premiers and

The Seconds' Trial Match

After the match between the Premiers and the District team the trial between Cardiff Seconds and a side chosen from those who had sent in applications will take place. The committee had 42 names before them, many of whom had sent in applications in previous seasons, but the opinion was that the players were of only moderate calibre, there being no one of conspicuous merit. The teams were selected as follows:—

Cardiff Seconds: Back, F. Wood (captain); three-quarter backs, W. A. Jones, T. Reardon, T. Evans, and Edgar Thomas, reserve T. Parker; inside half, C. Culverwell, reserve Beddoes; outside half, F. Potter, reserve T. Parker; forwards (selected from), D. Pike, D. Duncan, E. Smith, G. Lewis, C. Scanton, R. Shepherd, W. Casey, S. Gillard, T. Buck, and Dean.

District Fifteen: Back, G. Welsh (Mackintosh); three-quarter backs, left centre—C. Howard (Penylan), right centre—R. A. C. Richards (Lampeter College), left wing—M. L. Powell (Pupil Teachers' F.C.), right wing—T. D. Griffiths (London Welsh), reserves—left wing D. R. Robotham, either centre—D. H. Rieple (Cardiff West); half-backs, inside—T. Morgan (Penarth), outside—R. Jones (Cardiff Centrals), reserve outside half—L. S. Fallerton (Adamsdown F.C.); forwards (selected from), B. Lewis, D. Abbott, H. Tout, W. Holtham (Whitchurch), A. Christensen (Grange Windsors), H. Edwards (Cardiff East), A. Phelps, S. Morgan (Adamsdown F.C.), H. Warwick (Whitchurch), E. G. Beach (St. Teilo), W. E. Hopkins (Cardiff West), and D. W. Harvard.

Swansea v. Swansea League

Fred Potter making a name for himself again at Cardiff and Whitchurch a feeder club to Cardiff! 18th September 1909 The Evening Express.

him to do the same again.

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch gives good recruits to Cardiff. There is promise of another in Fred Potter, who scored two clever tries for Cardiff Reserves last Saturday.

It is a long time since Whitchurch were blessed with so many good forwards and so excellent a leader as Tom Mahoney. He was ever to the fore in last Saturday's game. Jeanes, who deputised as full-back, was quite a success, his dropped goal being a piece of clever opportunism.

A local derby early in the season with Whitchurch seemingly providing an option for opposing players. The Evening Express 2nd October 1909

Beaumont have captured Harry PARRY, an occasional player in the Talywain pack.

WHITCHURCH.

Llandaff North gave an excellent account of themselves on the occasion of their visit to the villagers' enclosure, only losing by 8 points. The result was mainly due to the excellent display of Fred Beacon and the poor packing of the home forwards.

So well did Beacon perform that Whitchurch have invited him to assist them for the future. It is, however, essential that the Whitchurch pack must improve in heeling and solid packing when sterner opposition is to be met.

ARTILLERY.

Early season optimism, 9th October 1909 The Evening Express

ARTHUR LEONARD
(Aberdare Association Football Club).

WHITCHURCH.

There is evidence of the making of a good team in the village. The backs are all youngsters, but are smart and nippy. Beacon and Stephens only want to be fed by the forwards to give the three-quarters excellent opportunities. The forwards are all clever in the loose, and their line-out work and combined rushes are a feature.

TREDEGAR.

The Hibernians' backs are improving every match, and their nippy inside half's presence behind the scrum is a feature.

The line was washed away The Evening Express 16th October 1909

also good.

WHITCHURCH.

The weather entirely spoiled the game at Whitchurch, where Cardiff Centrals opposed the villagers. Although having most of the play, the homesters failed to score. On one occasion it was galling to see Broad touch down a yard short of the line, when the opposition had been entirely beaten.

The absence of Stephens, at half, necessitated another change in the half-backs, Rodger partnering Beacon. Considering the greasy state of the ball they did well, and with the return of Stephens, who is, unfortunately, indisposed, the vice-captain will fill the gap capably.

A big match spoiled by the rain, 30th
October 1909, The Evening Express

(Herne Bay), 29sec.

WHITCHURCH.

The visit of Newport A to Whitchurch are always eagerly anticipated and much enjoyed by everyone. On Saturday an event occurred which rarely happens in football matches. The game was barely a quarter of an hour old when a perfect deluge descended and swept all the players and spectators off the ground, and it was wisely decided to discontinue the game.

So far as the game went, the villagers did the attacking, but on such a day it would be unfair to criticise the play. The Whitchurch players are hoping for better conditions when they visit Newport next March.

MID-RHONDDA UNITED.

The above club played Porth Y.M.C.A. in a league match last Saturday, and a very

Early season form going well, but who
knew of the Birchgrove Rifles? 6th
November 1909, The Evening Express

his ribs.

WHITCHURCH.

It is very satisfactory that, so far, the villagers have only had their line crossed once, and have only lost one game.

Last Saturday the Birchgrove Rifles put up a splendid fight against the villagers, but in the end succumbed by 9 points to nil. All the tries were cleverly gained, but the heeling of the forwards still requires improvement.

Dan Elliott, for the Rifles, was brilliant in defence, whilst throughout Tom Mahoney led his men in great style.

YSTALYFERA.

13th November 1909 The Evening Express, old rivalries

Evans in the three-quarter line.

WHITCHURCH.

There was quite a revival of old time rivalry in the match between Old Monktonians and the villagers, and, although out-weighted at all points, the home-sters stuck manfully to their opponents, and hardly deserved to lose.

Bodger's dropped goal was the smartest score of the day. It seemed particularly hard lines that the winning points for the Monktonians should be gained by an ex-Whitchurch player, W. J. Richards.

YSTALYFERA.

Swansea Seconds were the first team to beat Ystalyfera this season. Ystalyfera lost the

20th November 1909 The Evening Express, local derby too much for the ref....

WHITCHURCH.

The visit of the villagers to Llanishen provided a tussle that was hard and strenuous from start to finish, marred only by the premature action of Referee Jenkins in sending off Tom Broad and Taylor. There was certainly no occasion for such a drastic action, as there was no warning administered to either player.

The feature of the game was the fine display of both full-backs, Jeanes and Lennox fielding and kicking finely throughout.

FERNDALE.

27th November 1909 The Evening Express, form goes out of the window.

that he has not received his transfer.

WHITCHURCH.

The visit of Whitchurch to Pentyreh provided an enjoyable game, in which the home-sters were victorious by the goal kick. The Whitchurch men should have made the game secure in the first half, but the tendency to play too much on the blind side lost them many chances.

Fred Beacon's try was very cleverly gained, and the young inside half much impressed the spectators.

High praise for Dan Stephens, 24th December 1909, The Evening Express

most gentlemanly.

DAN STEPHENS, the Whitchurch outside-half, always gives a smart display. Be it attack or defence he always shines. He understands the game thoroughly and can adapt himself to any position in the rear of the scrum.

HARRY ORDE, Blaena, is turning out again. His recent display indicated that he has

1910

New Year's Day and a match report for the Whitchurch Christmas Day fixture against Birchgrove, 1st January 1910 The Evening Express

game, and saved his side from a much heavier defeat.

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch defeated their old rivals, Birchgrove, on Christmas Day by 8 clear points. The game was contested in excellent spirit. The homesters were superior at all points, and only the continual tendency to work the "blind" side prevented a good score being recorded.

No team bus back in the day, 8th January 1910, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH V CARDIFF ROXBURGHES

At Whitchurch. A motor-bus breakdown was responsible for a late start. The Roxburghs opened with a smart passing bout, and invaded the home territory. The homesters retaliated with some fine forward rushes. For a time play was in mid-field. Smart play by Beacon enabled Whitchurch to attack. Fast and exciting play ensued, each side attacking in turn.

Whitchurch	0	0	0
Cardiff Roxburghs	0	0	0

Final: Whitchurch, 0; Cardiff Roxburghs, 0.

The second half opened with a fast pace. The Roxburghs executed a splendid passing movement, Ripple being prominent. A huge kick by Jenkins took play to the visitors' quarters. A fine run by Griffiths, who passed to Sutton, resulted in Richards getting within inches of the visitors' line.

	Final:	G.	T.	Pts.
Whitchurch		0	0	0
Cardiff Roxburghs		0	0	0

MOUNTAIN ASH V. CANTON.

On 31st January 1910 local results showed: Whitchurch, 0.; Llanishen, 0

Competed well against Cardiff, 26th February 1910 The Evening Express but withdrew from the Mallett Cup

WHITCHURCH.

By playing so close a game with Cardiff Reserves last Saturday Whitchurch gave further evidence of the usefulness of the side that is sporting the village colours this season. The forwards were excellent, and had it not been for the injury to Hall early on they would have, no doubt, given further evidence of their superiority to the Cardiffians' eight. The defence of the backs was sound, but the ball was kept too close. There is still much room for improvement in attack.

Whitchurch did not enter for the Mallett Cup, but were placed in the draw. They have notified the Union of their intention not to compete.

CARDIFF INSTITUTES LEAGUE

On 28th February 1910 local results showed: Whitchurch, 6 pts.; Wanderers, 0

Abe Griffiths gets a mention, 19th March
1910 The Evening Express

penalty kicks.
—
ABE GRIFFITHS (Whitchurch) is an outside half who will soon gain fame. A tendency to selfishness at present is his only failing, and with this removed he will be a good class player.
—
A. M. TAYLOR, who has taken an active part in first-class Association football up

9th April 1910 The Evening Express
outlining the teams record over the season
with Tom Mahoney getting the
commendations

is now every prospect of the club
coming to Pontlottyn.
WHITCHURCH.
The villagers added another victory to their list on Saturday last, and their record stands to date:—Played, 28; won, 13; drawn, 10; lost, 5. They have a fine defensive record, no team having crossed their line more than once in any game. Much of the credit for the season's performances is due to Tom Mahoney, the Whitchurch skipper, absolutely one of the best forwards in the district. A most unassuming fellow, and a true son of Erin, he commands the respect and loyalty of all the players.

Just what the club could do without, 16th
April 1910 The Evening Express

The record so far stands—Played 26, won 10, drawn 4, lost 9.
WHITCHURCH.
The Villagers suffered another disappointment last Saturday, and the unfortunate failure of their neighbours—Garth—to fulfil this fixture means a serious financial loss to the homesters. This is the third successive match in which the Villagers have been disappointed, and only those who know the difficulties of running a village club are aware of the serious result of these disappointments at the end of the season.

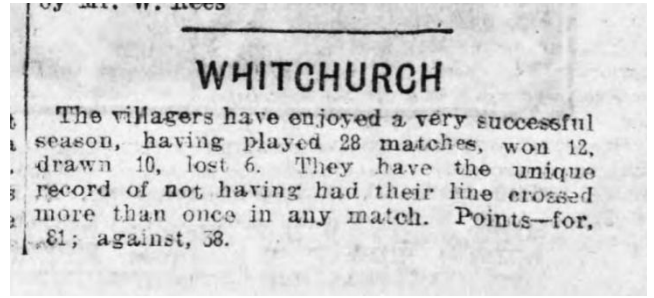
Quite possibly an Easter tour match, 23rd
April 1910 The Evening Express

owns the cherry and white jersey.
WHITCHURCH.
The villagers at Abergavenny did excellently against the wind in the first half, the forwards playing superbly, whilst the backs defended well. The only score resulted from charging down the full-back's kick, and the villagers failed to equalise.
RHYMNEY VALLEY OLD BOYS.
P. W. L. D. P'ts.
Barrow 2 1 2 1 12

Probably the last game of the season, 30th
April 1910, The Evening Express

Newport Boys
WHITCHURCH V PENYLAN
At Whitchurch, the opening stages favouring Penylan, Barrow and Gibbs playing prominently. Potter nearly dropped a goal for Whitchurch, and, following a fine movement by Aldrich and Griffiths, resolute tackling alone prevented Sutton going over.
Half-time: G. T. Pts.
Whitchurch 0 0 0
Penylan 0 0 0
PILL HARRIERS V MAESTEG

Although things seemed to have quietened down on the match reporting front this little cutting tells us what a good season the club had 1909 – 1910 and it also shows us the scale of the demands made on player and club. 30th April 1910 The Evening Express

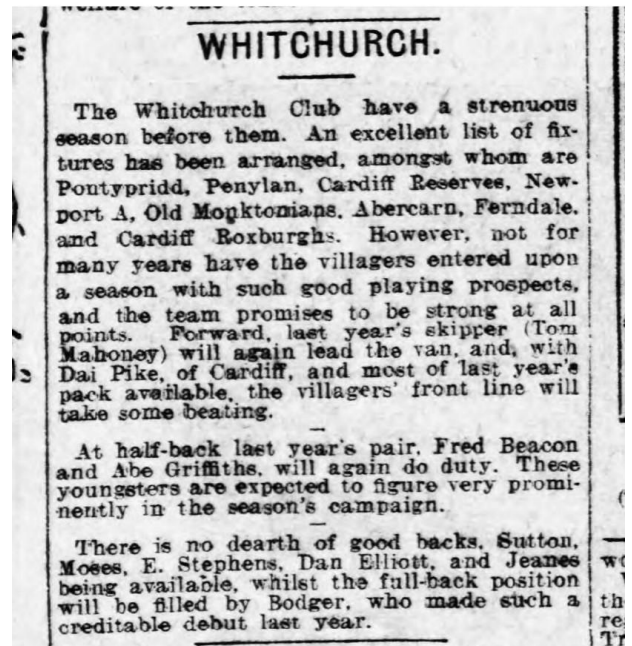


4th July 1910 The Evening Express reporting on a fundraising event at The Fox and Hounds.

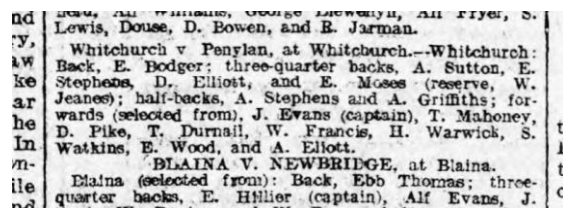


You can't help but wonder where those bronzes and the cruet set are now.

As a prelude to the season, 3rd September 1910, The Evening Express provided us with a rosy picture of what lies ahead.



10th September 1910 The Evening Express printed the team selection for the Whitchurch side vs Penylan at home (below) then followed it up with the first half match report in the late edition (right)



17th September 1910 The Evening Express reported on the Penylan match and the return of Fred Potter

home team on several occasions.

WHITCHURCH.

Penylan defeated Whitchurch in smart style by 12 points to 3, and the victory was the result of superior combination and opportunism. The play of the home pack was disappointing, and there was evidently a lack of the solid scrummaging usually associated with the Whitchurch forwards.

The real weakness on the home side was at inside half, and it was a pity to see such a sound player as Griffiths waiting to be fed. The only opportunity that came his way was quietly converted into a fine try by Ernie Stephens.

To-day the half-back line will consist of Fred Bevan and Fred Potter, who, as school-boys, made a great reputation. Potter's temporary lapse from Cardiff Reserves gives them the opportunity of again being associated, and much is expected from them.

PENRHIWFER.

23rd September 1910 The Evening Express printed the team selection for the Whitchurch away game at Panteg

and H. Gibson.

WHITCHURCH V. PANTEG, at Panteg.

Whitchurch: Back, E. Bodger or E. Robbins; three-quarter backs, A. Sutton, A. Griffiths, E. Stephens, and E. Moses; half-backs, F. Beacon and F. H. Potter; forwards, J. Evans (capt.), A. Warwick, E. Wood, W. Francis, T. Mahoney, T. Durnall, J. Bodger, and S. Davies.

BLAINA V. TALYWAIN, at Blaina.

Blaina: Back, Ebb Thomas; three-quarter backs, J.

8th October 1910 The Evening Express published a pen portrait of some of the outstanding players in the region (right), E. Badger and Jim Evans getting a mention (or was it 'Tim Evans' ref below) while Tom Witney (below) and Fred Potter (bottom right) get mentioned.

E. BADGER is the most versatile player in the Whitchurch team, and plays with equal facility in any position amongst the backs. His adaptability in this direction has proved most useful this season already.

GEORGE LLEWELLYN, the ex-Briton Ferry forward, is playing a great game for the "Old Firm" this season. He is a sound scrummager and a very heady player in the open.

D. W. DAVIES, of the Penygraig Reserves, has by his displays in a few of the premier matches secured his position in the Penygraig team. Although on the small side, he is a determined tackler, and is also a splendid kick.

JIM EVANS, the Whitchurch captain, is a forward of the right stamp. Clever in the scrum and in the loose, he never flags, and is an excellent leader. The side at his command is a young one, but full of promise under good leadership.

W. HIGGS, the Ystalyfera right half, reminds one very forcibly of the redoubtable Fatty

TOM WITNEY returns to Whitchurch, and will strengthen the villagers' pack.

PARRY, Rhymney Thursday's goalie, is worthy of a trial in better company.

could be desired.

TIM EVANS, the Whitchurch captain, is a forward of the right stamp—clever in the loose and a solid scrummager. He makes an excellent leader, and already the team is giving evidence of his tuition.

DICKY DAVID'S opinion was that it wanted Percy Bush to win last Saturday's game for

F. H. POTTER has returned to the Whitchurch ranks, and with Fred Beacon as partner the villagers will possess a fine pair of half-backs. Tom Evans has deposed the young villager, but it is doubtful whether Evans is so well acquainted with all the phases of half-back play as Potter.

GEORGE HIRST did well in his debut for Newport last Saturday. He scored the first

On 14th October 1910 The Evening Express printed the team selections (right) for the Whitchurch home game against Bedwas

	Whitchurch v. Bedwas, at Whitchurch.—Whitchurch: Back, R. Robbins; three-quarter backs, E. Moses, E. Bodger, A. Griffiths, and Smith or Sutton; half-backs, T. Wilkins and R. I. Rhys; forwards, T. Mahoney (captain), T. Durnall, E. Wood, W. Francis, H. Warwick, R. Climey, J. Bodger, and S. Davies. Bedwas: Back, M. Williams; three-quarter backs, R. Woodruff, T. Williams, W. King, and W. J. Rooms; half-backs, T. Lewis and T. Rosser; forwards (selected from): J. Edmunds (captain), D. Thomas, Morris, J. Porter, J. Richards, A. Matthews, D. Thomas, T. Witts, H. S. Cook, and M. Richards.	M du P sr T ti di R tl
	Llwynypia v. Mountain Ash, at Llwynypia.—	

The Evening Express 15th October 1910 tells us some reinforcements in the team

	who is credited with being a ten-and-a-half-second man.	impr game Ha
	R. J. RHYNS, the old Llandoverly boy and now of Cardiff University, now assists Whitchurch. Rhys played a season with Cardiff Reserves, and then gave up for a time, and his appearance with the villagers will prove a welcome addition to their backs.	scori good excel was the Th Cour
	GEORGE WILLIAMS, Blaina's right back, has been off the field lately, having given	S C

Make out of this what you will, 15th October 1910, The Evening Express. It pays to read the small print.

	Whitchurch 'Quins and Pontypridd Reserves met at Whitchurch, but no referee was in evidence. The gentleman eventually selected has sent in a bill to the Union; but as the 'Quins are an unaffiliated team, of course, no action could be taken. Pontypridd and District Union grumble because a Union official was not out, but the anger will be appeased when they know that Pontypridd Reserves were the real offenders in playing an unaffiliated club.	(s
	The Welsh Union has asked the opinion of the committee on the charge made against	

4th November 1910 The Evening Express reminding us of the club's strength with the team selections for both the 1st team and 2nds. Both tough fixtures.

	WHITCHURCH V. NEWPORT A, at Whitchurch. Whitchurch: Back, E. Moses; three-quarter backs, quarter backs, R. Scott, E. Stephens, E. Bodger, and J. Bodger; half-backs, T. Wilkins and A. Griffiths; forwards, J. Evans (captain), T. Mahoney, H. Warwick, W. Francis, T. Durnall, J. Collins, E. Wood, and A. N. Other.	M 3.0 4.10 5.10 4.11
	ABERTHLLERY V. MOUNTAIN ASH. Abertillery: Back, C. Hodges; three-quarter backs, Fred Court, H. R. James, T. Browning, and W. Bowen; half-backs, Joe Richardson and E. Marsh (captain); forwards, Tom Dykes, Tom Fearn, W. Lewis, Joe Howells, Reg. Jenkins, Jack Webb, W. Powell, and A. N. Other.	Al Coo (Sax Be and
	TREORKY V. LLWYNYPIA, at Treorky. Treorky: Back, Daly James; three-quarter backs, W. Spiller, J. W. Lewis, George Evans, and T. O. Jones; half-backs, D. W. Jones and Lewis Roberts; forwards (selected from), D. Wise (captain), David Lewis, Fred Davies, J. Attwood, J. Turley, David Vaughan, G. Jeremiah, Ivor Jones, Phil Salisbury, Bob Meredith, and Bert Fear.	3.30 H b 8.12 7.1 7.12
	Whitchurch Seconds v. Pontypridd Seconds, at Pontypridd.—Whitchurch Seconds: Back, A. Edmunds; three-quarter backs, H. John, F. Lewis, A. Edser, and J. Broad; half-backs, T. J. Richards and Thorne; forwards, W. Scoat (captain), J. Sutton, F. Green, W. Green, F. Cardy, B. Moon, P. Thomas, and A. N. Other.	Al Peas son) Quee
	Old Monktonians v. Roxburgs, at Llandaff.—Monktonians: Back, H. Ferrier; three-quarter backs, E. V.	W

26th November 1910 The Evening Express cast a critical eye on the 1sts home match against Taffs Well and the 2nds away match at Llanishen 2nds

We can't bring this to an end without mentioning these young men.....Four Whitchurch lads: Oswald Jones; Jack Skeats; Hubert Thompson and Tali Richards, The Evening Express 31st December 1910

While this one below on 17th December 1910 suggests that rugby in Whitchurch has a good future.

The CLUBS.



The Welsh League
O. AND D.R.U.
School and Old Boy Rugger
By SPOKES.

SCHOOL RUGGER.
Whitchurch, by their fine play against Court-road and their meritorious victory, proved that their past successes were no flukes. Court had only been beaten once, by St. David's, whilst Whitchurch, too, had suffered only one reverse, and, strangely enough, before the Saints.

As a result of the win, Court's chances of the championship are greatly lessened, and it looks probable that the Whitchurch lads and St. David's will run neck and neck for the honour.

Whitchurch have some remarkably fine players this season. Skeats is a forward who should have no trouble in getting his national cap. Thomson is a great three-quarter. The strength of the school, however, really lies at half-back.

Jones and Richards combine so splendidly and vary their play to suit the circumstances so rapidly that I do not think the Welsh Schools' Union could do better than play them for the East in the coming trial. There is not a better judge of boy players than

WHITCHURCH.
The visit of Taff's Well to the village produced keen, but not good, football. Close play was the order of the day. It was evidently the intention of the visitors that this should be so, as they played eight backs throughout, and this kept the home passing gear in check.
The Seconds visited their neighbours, Llanishen Seconds, and were victorious, through a pretty try scored by Fred Lewis. Over-eagerness prevented many other scores, but the young villagers played the right game, and should be winning by larger margins.

CAERPHILLY.
The Caerphilly Harriers followed up their

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL.
A Whitchurch Quartette.



D. OSWALD JONES
(Half-back).

JACK SKEATS
(Forward).

HUBERT THOMPSON
(Three-quarter).

"TALI" RICHARDS
(Half-back).

After 1910 the available archives become incomplete and the research ends here, the club continued because one little cutting does become available dated 7th January 1911 published by The Rhondda Leader in a column regarding a number of sports clubs in the Rhondda area, in this case Ferndale were having a tough time of things having to call on a number of 'substitutes' to fill positions in the team over the Christmas period before meeting Whitchurch early in the New Year with them having the same player problem.

by nine points. That
Ferndale has never been so unfortu-
nate as during the Christmas holidays.
They did not field a team of regular
players on one occasion. Against Llwyn-
pia they played several substitutes in the
pack, and taking the game throughout,
it was very uninteresting from a spec-
tator's point of view. Again on Satur-
day, they journeyed away to Whitchurch
with at least eight "subs." and there-
fore came a cropper to the tune of 8
points to 3.
D. J. (Buller) Jones once more assisted
Ferndale, and was a shining light in every
match he took part. More of Buller's

Although the research ends here this does not mean to say that records beyond this date don't exist, only that at the time of research it's as much as the archived records allowed. Over time it's quite possible that more becomes available.

Bear in mind that between 1914 – 1918 there was a period of significant global upheaval and in all probability very few sports clubs were able to survive intact.

Profiled Players – Sons of Whitchurch

We've read previously of the Whitchurch player **Radley Thomas** who had impressed Cardiff so much that they picked him for some matches. Here he was appointed captain of Whitchurch and was profiled in The South Wales Daily News on 4th November 1895.

Radley Thomas was very much a star of his time, typified by this cutting (below) from The Evening Express on 11th April 1896 having 'gone north' to Castleford.

The fight of the "owd tin pot" is, despite the cessation of the Northern Union clubs, creating as much sensation as ever in the broad-acred shire. On Saturday last Castleford managed to pass into the final round of the competition. According to the "Athletic News," their success was in no small degree due to the fine three-quarter play of Bradley Thomas, late of Whitchurch. When in South Wales Thomas was always looked upon as a fine, speedy wing. As in the case of Cooper, association with a Northern club has developed the man to his utmost, with the result that he is now the shining light of the club that bid fair to carry off the trophy esteemed above all others in the county of many acres—the Yorkshire Cup, to wit. Castleford are shaking hands with themselves upon their latest acquisition.

Whilst not having such a brilliant record as was the case in the previous season, the Car-

He made his debut against Morley a brief report appearing in The Evening Express on 26th February 1896 (left)

For Radley Thomas it wasn't exactly a smooth ride, The Evening Express printed this brief update on 23rd December 1898 (right) outlining difficulties with his employment contract. (Having to work as well as play).

THOMAS, OF WHITCHURCH.

Mr Radley Thomas commenced football at a very early age, his first experience being with the Whitchurch Juniors, but he can hardly be said to have commenced playing in earnest until his return from America some three years ago, when he took up his position as wing three-quarter for Whitchurch. Two years ago, while playing for Llandaff against the Cardiff Reserves, he attracted the attention of the Reserves captain, who invited him to play for them against Stroud, after which he played regularly for them, and once against Neath for the premier team. He last season played for Cardiff 1st in the majority of their matches, but was not then an unqualified success, though his position was frequently changed. This season he is captain of the Whitchurch team, and he has secured the assistance of the brothers Mills, who together with himself and J. B. Glendining, go to make up a three-quarter line the strength of which some of their opponents will find out before the end of this season. He is 20 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and turns the scale at 12 stone. He possesses a fair turn of speed and kicks and tackles well.



MR RADLEY THOMAS.

Radley Thomas, the ex-Whitchurch captain, and Cardiff three-quarter, has at last made his debut at Castleford. He was selected by that club to fill the place of Ben Walker—who had gone over to the Northern Union—in the match with Morley at Castleford on Saturday last. The "Athletic News" speaks of his play as follows:—"Thomas, while being tackled, cleverly exchanged to Rhodes, who scored. The home forwards proved simply irresistible, and Thomas proved a decided acquisition behind the scrum."

Mountain Ash has now scored 256 points to 2.

The committee of the Salford Club have this week decided to permanently suspend Radley Thomas, one of their three-quarters. The reason assigned is that that player, after jeopardising the club on the bona fide employment clause, has persistently refused to faithfully fulfil situations found for him. Thomas, previous to going North, played for Whitchurch, and also for the Cardiff Football Club, whilst last season he assisted Durham County under Rugby Union rules, and Salford after much trouble secured his transfer from Castleford, to which club he had bound himself.

The Association match England v. Wales will be played at Bristol on Monday, March 20, 1899.

Radley Thomas smartly dealt with.
 Commenting upon the suspension of Radley Thomas, the old Whitchurch and Cardiff player, the Manchester correspondent of the "Athletic News" writes as follows:—In the first place, Thomas has been ignominiously discharged for not complying with the wishes of the committee. All through the season the Cardiffian has proved a troublesome player, and never took kindly to work. He has been the means of the club being "shadowed" owing to his deliberate attempts to evade the working clause, and the club committee had become weary of looking him up. Of course, he is on the transfer list, but whatever price he will bring will hardly recoup Salford for the outlay he has caused them. There is also another in the team who may look out for squalls ere long, as the committee are determined that the men shall do the playing while they do the governing. Hoskins has been off the team some time on the "sick list," but over a week ago was certified as fit and able to play. But the Welshman has ideas of his own, and desires to play when he likes and not when the club wish, and for objecting to turn out against Wigan and Bradford this week the management declined to allow the Rhondda Valley man to play against St. Helens. This stand on the part of Salford is

Things didn't look good for him after the Manchester 'Athletic News' went to press, this update published on 27th December 1898 in the Evening Express and it seems that other 'professionals' also had issues with their employment contract.

J. Blake

We came across J. Blake in 1899 having been selected for Wales, here he is again continuing with his international career in 1901, picked to play against England. This cutting is identical to others used over the seasons apart from a tribute final sentence. 5th January 1901 The Evening Express

eight internationals.

J. BLAKE (Cardiff) is as well worth his place as any forward in the team. He is 25 years old, 5ft. 11in. in height, and scales 13st. 4lb. Blackweir and Whitchurch junior teams in the Cardiff neighbourhood had his services for a couple of seasons, and after playing for the Cardiff Reserves his transition to the ranks of the first was very rapid. His weight makes him invaluable in the scrum, but, in addition, he is fast in following up, dribbles well, and does his share generally in the loose. With all his weight and height, he brings off good movements at the line-out, and always pulls down anyone he lays his hands on. He has played in all the Welsh international matches during the past couple of seasons.

BOB THOMAS (Swansea), one of the

Below from The Evening Express 5th January 1901



Johnny Williams

1st December 1906 The Evening Express
(right)

(Below)..A commemoration dinner was held in Barry, note the firm connection between Whitchurch Rugby and Whitchurch Cricket clubs, Johnny Williams played for both.

of the ground, was ordered to be re-played.

J. L. WILLIAMS HONOURED.

A complimentary dinner to J. L. Williams, the Cardiff three-quarter, to celebrate his winning his cap in the Wales v. South Africa match, was given by his friends and admirers at Barry's Restaurant, Cardiff, on Tuesday evening. There were about 60 people present, including members of the Cardiff and Whitchurch Clubs. Mr. Philip Thomas was in the chair, with Mr. A. H. Bullock in the vice-chair, and there were present Messrs. E. Gwyn Nicholls, J. Davies, D. L. Evans, G. M'Craith, and others. Percy Bush, the captain, and H. B. Winfield both wrote that they were prevented from attending, the former owing to a prior engagement and the latter on account of illness. Other members of the team also wrote regretting their enforced absence.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of "Johnny" Williams, said he thoroughly deserved his cap, and all Cardiffians were glad that he had won it.

Mr. Williams replied in a neat little speech. He humorously remarked that several papers had said the wings were not fed at Swansea. Hence, he supposed, that dinner. (Loud laughter.)

"The Cardiff Football Club" was proposed by Mr. A. H. Bullock, Messrs. Gwyn Nicholls and J. Davies replying, and to the toast of "The Whitchurch Cricket Club," proposed by Mr. G. W. Peck, Mr. J. L. Williams again responded.

THE NEW WELSH "CAP."

Although Cardiffians are sorry that an unfortunate accident has deprived the Swansea captain, W. Trev, of the honour of plying against the Springbokken, they are naturally gratified that the breach is to be filled by the popular J. L. Williams. By his modesty, his capacity as a player, and his conspicuous pluck, the Whitchurch man has earned for himself a warm place in the hearts of habitués of the Cardiff Arms Park. In the early days of his career Williams was by no means a success, and it has only been by rare grit and determination that he has won his way to the very front rank. It was the Soccer code that Williams first took to, when a student at Cowbridge Grammar School, where he played at half-back. Subsequently he played with the Whitchurch village Rugby Team, and five years ago was given a trial by Newport. After playing about half-a-dozen games, he was thought to be hardly class enough, and was not further selected. Then he came to Cardiff Reserves,



J. L. WILLIAMS (Cardiff).

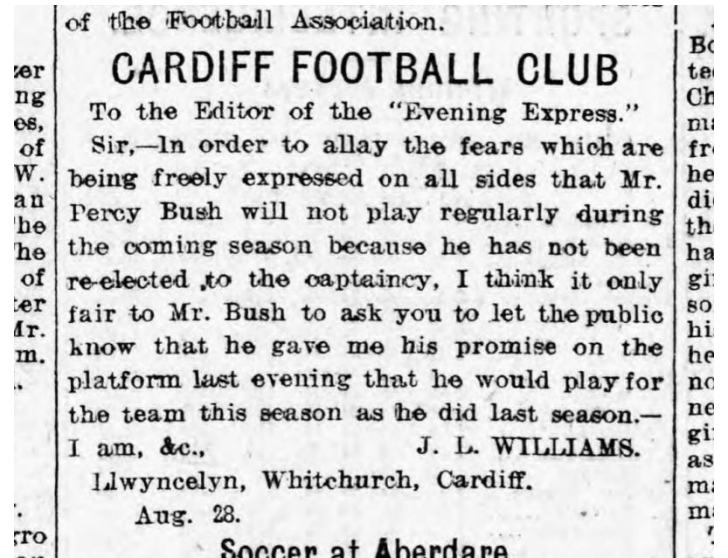
and quickly got a trial with the premiers. His main fault at this period was a pronounced hesitancy in doubling, with the result that he was often tackled or opportunities were lost. Presently he was dropped in favour of Arthur Williams, of Penygraig, but by "sticking at it" with the Reserves he regained his place in the premiers, and for three seasons has held his place unchallenged; in fact, he is now one of the most brilliant wing three-quarters in the four countries. This is proved by his 35 tries for Cardiff last season. Williams has a good turn of speed, dodges cleverly, and goes for the line most determinedly. He is 24 years of age, stands 5ft. 8½in., weighs 11st., and is a son of Mr. Edward Williams, assistant-overseer, Whitchurch. "Johnny" has a big heart, and nothing would please his great body of admirers more than if he scored a couple of characteristic tries this afternoon.

Photos and biographies of the other three new Welsh caps appeared in the Football "Express" last Saturday.

Johnny Williams, moved to defend his team mate Percy Bush by going to the press. The Evening Express 28th August 1909.

An important feature here is that we are provided with evidence of his address in Whitchurch, Llwynceilyn, off Pantmawr Road just up from The Hollybush pub.

Llwynceilyn now demolished.



Johnny Williams, the famous Wales international rugby player who, as a Captain in the Welsh Regiment, died of wounds at the Battle of Mametz Wood, France, in July 1916.

Every man mentioned in this document pioneered the game of rugby from very early on, all stalwarts, team men. One family name that will resonate among local people is that of the **Sprudd** family. Mentioned many times in team selections and although not getting the accolades of the men mentioned above the name was a regular for many seasons. It was a Whitchurch family that was soon to suffer the tragic events of WW1. Albert, Alec and William Sprudd, brothers, names that can now be seen on the Memorial at Whitchurch Library, sons of Harry and Emily Sprudd of 6 Davies Terrace, Whitchurch, Cardiff. During the war, no less than five of the brothers served.

Some additional fixtures not within the main body of this document, dates are newspaper publication dates:

1893

30 th Sept	vs Blackweir	(and "Whitchurch Juniors vs Cathays")
6 th Oct	@Canton	2nds vs Canton A
21 st Oct	vs Barry	
27 th Oct	vs Grangetown	
25 th Nov	@ Red Star (Thompsons Park)	
1 st Dec	vs Canton	2nds @ Canton A
8 th Dec	vs Cardiff Northern	
22 nd Dec	vs Treforest Wanderers	

1894

13 th Jan	@ Cardiff Star	
17 th Jan	@'Northern' 1 st round of Mallett Cup (Cardiff and District Union) – "It was decided that caps would be awarded to players who have represented the Union in three matches".	
19 th Jan	@ Dowlais	2nds vs Dinas Powis Jun
2 nd Feb		vs Cardiff Alexandra
23 rd Feb	@ Cathays	
22 nd March	@ Cathays	
7 th Apr	vs Cardiff Star	

6 th Oct	Vs Penarth A	
13 th Oct	@ Grangetown	
19 th Oct	@ Caerphilly	
3 rd Nov	@ Canton	2nds vs Ely United
24 th Nov	@ Cardiff Northern	
19 th Oct	@ Caerphilly	
27 th Oct	vs Cathays	2nds @ Avondale (Cardiff)
2 nd Nov	@ Canton	
16 th Nov	@ Glam Artillery (Cardiff)	2nds vs Cardiff Hornets
30 th Nov	vs G.W. Pontypridd	
7 th Dec	vs Barry	(2nds?) vs G.W. Pontypridd @ Ely
15 th Dec	@ Lydbrook	
21 st Dec	@ Grangetown	2nds vs Corporation Rangers

1895

11 th Jan	vs Caerphilly	
25 th Jan	@ Cathays	2nds vs Canton Crusaders
29 th March	vs Canton	
6 th Apr		2nds vs Llandaff 2nds
4 th Oct	vs Blackwood	
19 th Oct	@ Roath	
23 rd Nov	@ Canton	
13 th Dec	vs Grangetown	2nds vs Canton A
14 th Dec	vs Grangetown	

20th Dec @ Llandaff
 24th Dec vs St Michael's

1896

3rd Jan vs Cardiff Hornets
 10th Jan vs Old Monktonians
 13th Mar vs Roath

3rd Oct vs Cowbridge
 23rd Oct @ Cowbridge
 28th Nov @ Llandaff (Ely Farm Field)
 4th Dec vs Romilly

1897

2nd Jan @ Caerphilly
 22nd Jan @ Barry
 5th Mar vs Old Monktonians

1898

7th Jan vs St Peter's
 21st Jan @ St Paul's (Sophia Gdns)
 4th March vs Cardiff Mackintosh
 11th March vs St Paul's
 30th Sept vs Old Monktonians
 14th Oct vs Cowbridge

1899

3rd Feb vs Pontyclun
 10th Feb vs Pill Harriers
 25th Feb @ Crumlin

11th Sept @ Pontypridd
 6th Oct vs Cardiff Reserves
 13th Oct vs Old Monktonians
 10th Nov vs Chepstow
 24th Nov @ Cowbridge
 29th Dec @ Maesteg

1900

5th Jan vs Crumlin
 12th Jan @ Pill Harriers
 2nd Feb Cardiff 2nds

5th Oct vs Tondu
 20th Oct vs Penylan
 26th Oct vs Cardiff St Andrews
 16th Nov vs Lydney
 15th Dec @ Tondu

190118th Jan vs Chepstow St Mary's25th Jan Eve Exp Matches abandoned – Whitchurch v Roath - Due to the ill health of the Queen6th April vs Machen (Easter Mon)2nd May @ Mountain Ash4th Oct vs Penylan11th Oct @ Cwmbran18th Oct @ Taffs Well22nd Oct vs Cardiff Whartons8th Nov @ Caerphilly29th Nov vs Fair oak6th Dec vs Machen13th Dec vs Taffs Well**1902**6th Feb @ Belle Vue22nd Mar vs Ystrad Stars (Cup)5th Sept vs Crescents XVIII19th Sept @ Mountain Ash10th Oct vs Caerphilly31st Oct @ Bridgend8th Dec vs Cardiff Romilly**1903**28th Mar Whitchurch vs Dinas Powis – “Engagement ‘called off’ by the latter”.18th Sept Whitchurch Nomads vs Splott Nomads (Div IV)25th Sept vs Gabalfa

Whitchurch Crescents vs St Barnabas (Div III)

10th Oct @ Caerphilly27th Nov Whitchurch Crescents vs St Saviours (Div III Cdf + Dist RU)

Whitchurch Nomads vs Hibernian Old Boys (Div IV Cdf Dist RU)

5th Dec @ Swansea 2nds19th Dec @ Cilfynydd25th Dec vs Mr J. Davies XV (Fri)26th Dec vs Llandaff Yard (Saturd)**1904**5th Jan @ Cardiff Reserves29th Jan @ Pontypool15th Oct vs Merthyr22nd Oct vs Caerphilly29th Oct @ Newport 2nds

26th Nov vs Bedwas
17th Dec vs Newport 2nds
24th Dec vs Cardiff Reserv
31st Dec @ Caerphilly

1905

7th Jan vs Merthyr
18th Mar @ Bridgend
24th March @ Bedwas