

LLANDAFF YARD RUGBY

A history of Rugby in Llandaff Yard (Llandaff Yard and Primrose Hill was renamed in 1906 as Llandaff North).

This was written for personal family reasons and perhaps in doing so, it should/could enhance the history and heritage of not just Llandaff North Rugby Club, but, the village and community 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 at the time. Some other local teams from that era have been included to provide wider knowledge and to give an all round representation of local rugby back in those days, it represents just a chapter in a document of social history.

Terry Chard

Llandaff Yard Rugby

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 Llandaff Yard 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, Llandaff Yard / North 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 was 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 and teams, organise matches, travel to away games and arrange tour matches (no internet, smart phones or 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, if you were to be picked up and dropped into 1840's Llandaff North you'd be in the middle of a very rural environment, surrounded by farm meadows, a few workers cottages and a small number of houses befitting the more wealthy of that time, among them being Hawthorn House, vast areas of land were owned by the Romilly's, T. W. Booker and Blakemore (of Melingruffydd), Lord Dynevor, Sir Charles Bart Morgan and Edward Blossie, the Glamorganshire Canal was at its peak fostering the creation of various industries along its banks and land was being acquired for the development of a new steam engine track system that became the Taff Vale Railway (TVR). The 'industrialisation' of the area was the catalyst for a population rise and more and more housing. The population when the people of Llandaff Yard formed their rugby club was probably less than 1,000, an 'everyone knew everyone else' time, but it coincided with a rapid increase in the development of the area for a burgeoning population and housing as the railway took over and the canal declined. The Llandaff North that we know now was once two separate areas known as Llandaff Yard and Primrose Hill (around the station area) on 20th June 1906 The Evening Express published a small article that read as follows:....."The Postmaster General has assented to the request of the inhabitants of Llandaff Yard that the postal address "Llandaff North" should be substituted for Llandaff Yard. This new regulation will come into force on the 1st prox."

The current Llandaff North RFC website dates the club's origin *as follows...* "What is known is that there was a side, known as 'Llandaff Yard' which was formed in 1898 and it is claimed that the deep rooted traditions go back even further than local rivals, Llandaff City R.F.C., which was one of the founder members of the W.R.U. in 1884",this however seems unlikely, Llandaff RFC claim a 'founded' date of 1876 and there is a newspaper article of January 1880 describing the "unavoidable postponement" of a 'Challenge Cup Tie' between Llandaff and Cardiff.

What follows, however, adds to the dating evidence of Llandaff Yard Rugby Football and to the overall history and heritage of sport here, 'warts 'n all'. We'll read about the highs and lows; the 'pleasant' and 'unpleasant' games; how the village team got on against teams from larger towns; the status reached and the success and esteem once held; the struggles and finally we learn the names of those that represented the club over 100 years ago, the families, friends, workmates and the amazing number of brothers that once played for the club. Names 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, 'sweating blood, up to their necks in alligators and bullets', some probably working weekends, not much in the way of time off and holidays, all trying to put bread on the table, motivated by the sole aim of representing their community at rugby

So, hold on to something solid.....Read on.....

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Who knew of the Llandaff Yard Cricket Club that held a general meeting, according to The Cardiff Times in March 1886, at the Llandaff Yard Working Men's Club to appoint officers and committees for the 'cricket and rounders'? Was the rounders the origin of baseball in the area? Was this the date that local people got together to also form a rugby club, or, was it the inspiration needed for it to happen?

The earliest record on Llandaff Yard rugby that could be found was this one dated 1886 referring to Llandaff Yard 'Junior' team, dated 29th November 1886 in The South Wales Daily News.

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by THOMAS and ALICE, for the Pontypridd team, who also gained three touches-down to the Cardiffians nil.

LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS v. LLANDAFF "A" TEAM.—Played on the Llandaff Ground, and after a rough game resulted in a win for the Juniors by two goals and one try (disputed) to one goal (disputed) and one try. The tries for the winners were got by H. Newman, W. Mewman, and W. H. Thomas.

CATHAYS BOARD SCHOOL v. NATIONAL SCHOOL.—A match was played at the Barracks Field, and resulted

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A notable feature here is of the team's early days referring to a 'Junior' team, but whatever age group this was it's clear that the players were very determined and committed against their rivals from Llandaff. However, it is not known whether, or not, it is a younger persons' team. Being as this match was against a Llandaff 'A' Team it makes you wonder whether this in fact was a men's team carrying a 'Junior' name as reference to the status, or early development of the Llandaff Yard team/club rather than an age group match (?). We also have to wonder how likely it was to have a Llandaff Yard 'Juniors' without there being a senior men's team.

No records could be found for 1887 but 1888 produced a bit more activity....

On 16th April 1888 The South Wales Daily News once again reported on Llandaff Yard Juniors this time playing at home against Canton. On this occasion the match was against Canton 2nds giving the slightest hint that this might have been a senior men's game.

ward to with lively interest.

LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS v. CANTON 2ND (LATE ELY ROVERS).—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a draw in favour of Canton by 1 try (Lang) and 4 minors to 1 try.

HARBOUR LIGHTS v. GRANGETOWN JUNIORS.—Played at Riverside and resulted in a win for the

Here we have substantial evidence of a possible date origin of the club, it's not to say it gives us an absolute date, but certainly we have a date for one of, if not, the first meetings constituted by the club..... 23rd August 1888 The South Wales Daily News

FOOTBALL.

LLANDAFF YARD.—At a meeting of the members of this club the following officers were elected for the ensuing season: Captain, W Asplin; vice-captain, E Lewis; secretary, W Jones, 2, Gabalva-terrace, Freehold, Llandaff Yard, who will be glad to arrange matches with local clubs.

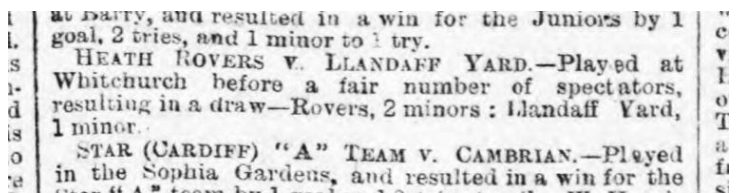
ABERDARE CLUB.—At a meeting of the members of the above club the following were elected to serve on the committee for the

Not just a date, but it provides us with some of the first 'movers and shakers' of the area, namely: W Asplin; E Lewis and W. Jones. The opportunity was also taken to advertise for fixtures.

On 22nd October 1888 The South Wales Daily News reported on Llandaff Yard playing at home and getting turned over by Ely Rovers.

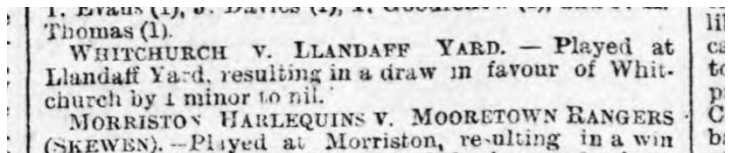


On 12th November 1888 The South Wales Daily News reported on a drawn match against a team from the Heath and it's interesting to note that the game was played at Whitchurch. Having said that, the Whitchurch district 'boundary' extended into the Birchgrove and Llandaff North area and so it could have been at one of them.

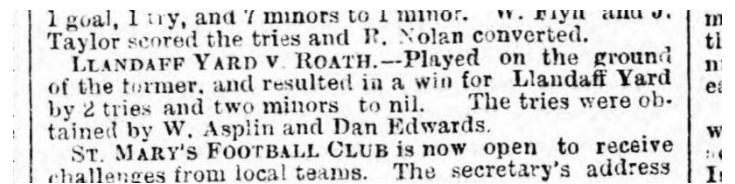


While still pondering on senior and junior sides we don't have to wait long to reach a conclusion..

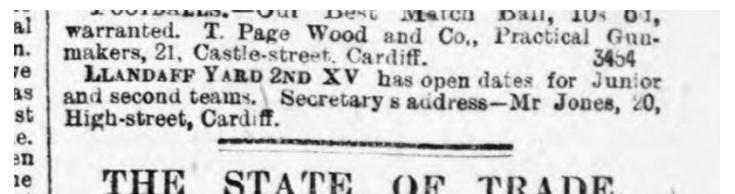
The match to attract the interest of local people was in the 19th November 1888 edition of The South Wales Daily News, at home against Whitchurch, will leave it you to decide the outcome.



On 15th December 1888 The South Wales Echo reported on a home win against Roath.



On 24th December 1888 The South Wales Daily News advertised for fixtures for the Llandaff Yard 2nd and Junior teams and it seems that the sec., has a change of address.



From the outset, Llandaff Yard rugby got off to a good competitive start, it now seems certain that there was a 1st XV, a 2nd XV and Junior team within the club. It certainly gives the impression that Llandaff Yard (Rugby) Football club had a decent squad of players to select from. 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 or at the passing of a vote at a meeting considering the amount of work and equipment required, but much more likely that they had played 'friendly' matches on an ad hoc / casual basis with the support and success leading them to establish themselves as a recognised 'club' with committees and formal AGM's afterwards. That's just pure speculation though, 'you pays your money, you takes your choice'.

1889

Carrying on with season 1888 – 89 Llandaff Yard played against Ely Rovers with a brief report appearing in The South Wales Daily News on 14th January 1889.

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ELY ROVERS v. LLANDAFF YARD.—Played at Ely, and resulted in a win for Ely by 2 tries, 2 minors to nil, Llandaff Yard walking off the field 20 minutes half time.
CHARLES-STREET RANGERS v. HEATH ROVERS.—Played at the Sophia Gardens, and resulted in a win for Charles-street by 2 tries and 4 minors to 1 try and 3 minors.

On 28th January 1889 The South Wales Daily News published the score:
 Cathays Rangers 1 Goal, 1 Try and 2 minors; Llandaff Yard nil, played at Llandaff Yard

On 25th February 1889 The South Wales Daily News published the score:
 Cathays Rangers 1 Goal, 1 Try and 8 minors; Llandaff Yard 1 Minor, played at the Barracks Field
 “The Rangers played a splendid game”.

On 11th March 1889 The South Wales Daily News printed an article that read “Charles Street Rangers v. Llandaff Yard – Played at Sophia Gardens resulting in a win for Charles Street Rangers by 2 goals and a try to 4 minors”.

Here we see for the first time a published Llandaff Yard 1st team selection for a home match against Cathays United with the Chard brothers Peter and Jim as half backs, the Llandaff Yard 2nds were also scheduled to play at the same time, 30th March 1889, published in The Evening Express, confirming that the club was strong enough to have two sides.

Llandaff Yard v. Cathays United.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, W. Davies; three-quarter backs, C. Seaman, F. Boothly, G. Day, and S. Evans; half-backs, P. Chard and J. Chard; forwards, D. Seaman (captain), A. Moss, W. Evans, A. Chapple, A. Leaves, W. Holtam, C. Samuel, and T. Thomas. Kick-off at 3.45 p.m.
Sploott Juniors v. Llandaff Yard Seconds.—At Llandaff Yard. Sploott Juniors: Back, T. Osborne; three-quarter backs, S. May, A. Manley, A. Lewis (captain), and W. Jones; half-backs, W. Wheeler and A. N. Other; forwards, H. Trott, F. Wheeler, Morgan, Jones, May, Knight, R. Mitchell, and Cooper.
Nantgarw Juniors v. Llandaff Juniors.—Nantgarw. Nantgarw: Back, W. Bayendale.

Then in a later edition the same paper, of the same date, published this intriguing match for a Llandaff Yard Past vs Present match with four Chard brothers Samuel, Peter and Jim being joined by their younger brother 17 year old John (Jack). It's also noticeable that there were two Edneys; two Stones; two Taylors; two Seaman and two Holtams.

Llandaff Yard Past v. Present.—Kick-off at 10.30 a.m. Teams:—Past: Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland, J. Chard (captain), J. Edney, and G. Stone; half-backs, W. Edney and D. Owen; forwards, D. Stone, C. Brain, V. Taylor, J. Godsall, W. Watkins, F. Brown, W. Taylor, and W. Lister. Present: Back, W. Davies; three-quarter backs, C. Seaman, T. Boothley, G. Day, and S. Evans; half-backs, P. Chard and J. Chard; forwards, D. Seaman (captain), A. Moss, W. Evans, A. Chapple, A. Leaves, T. Holtam, W. Holtam, and C. Samuel or T. Thomas.

ASSOCIATION

The interesting aspect of this is that the club could call on a ‘Past’ team in 1889. This ‘muddys the waters’ a bit, we have been working on the basis that the club was formed on or around 1886 we now learn that were ‘past’ players, from a club that we assumed to be just 3 years old. This tends to suggest that the club’s origin might therefore be at an earlier date. But, unfortunately we have no other proof.

What of the Past vs Present game?.....

This photo below is believed to be those teams (29 players, 1 man short, probably signing autographs on the side).



Below, 15 good men of Llandaff Yard Rugby Football Club, date unknown



Here's one to ponder, of local interest, in The South Wales Daily News on 26th August 1889. Presumably a pre-season warm up, but Llandaff Yard having a try 'disputed' otherwise it looks like the game was a draw. Above this though is a club announcement for Melin Rovers and this looks likely to be a team from the Melin Gruffydd works having held their AGM at The Royal Exchange.

FOOTBALL.

MELIN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB.—At the annual general meeting of this club, held at the Royal Exchange, Mr J. Roderick presiding, Mr W. B. Trick was elected president; Mr Tom Griffiths, captain; G. D. Trick, vice-captain; D. Davies, treasurer; and J. H. Wagstaff, hon. secretary. The secretary has a few open dates for second-class teams.

LLANDAFF YARD V. SPRINGFIELD ROVERS.—Played at Llandaff on Saturday, and after a good game resulted in a win for the Rovers by 2 tries and 2 minors to 1 try, 1 disputed try, and 2 minors. The Rovers have open dates, and will like them filled up with any junior teams. Hon. sec., J. Williams, 10, Springfield-place, Canton, Cardiff.

10th September 1889 The South Wales Echo. You'll notice that the sec., still has the Llandaff Yard address and so the previous address given (High Street, Cardiff) perhaps was his work place address.

FOOTBALL.

LLANDAFF YARD F.C.—The annual meeting of this club was held on the 2nd inst., when the following officers were elected:—Captain, Mr John Smith; vice-captain, Mr Tom Davies; committee, Messrs T. Jones, J. George, J. Brain, W. Phillips, D. J. Howells, and W. Stanfield; hon. sec., W. Jones, Gabalva-terrace, Llandaff Yard.

MACKINTOSH FOOTBALL CLUB.—Mr W. Deere, 40

On the same date, The South Wales Daily News published a report on a 'rough game' against Ton

FOOTBALL.

TONGWYNLAIS V. LLANDAFF YARD.—Played on the ground of the latter, and, after a rough game, ended in a win for the visitors by 4 goals, 2 tries, to 1 goal.

MACKINTOSH FOOTBALL CLUB.—Mr W. Deere, 40, Eclipse-street, Cardiff, denies that that club has match with the Cathays Stars

On 11th September 1889 The South Wales Daily News published an update on the club repudiating any notion of the Ton game having taken place, presumably there must have been consequences for having done so. The cutting also included the details from the previous days annual meeting, also seen above.

LLANDAFF YARD FOOTBALL CLUB.—The secretary of this club repudiates having played a match with Tongwynlais or any other club this season.

LLANDAFF YARD FOOTBALL CLUB.—The annual meeting of this club was held on the 2nd instant, when the following officers were elected:—Captain, John Smith; vice-captain, Tom Davies; committee, Messrs T. Jones, J. George, J. Brain, W. Phillips, D. J. Howells, and W. Stanfield; hon. secretary, W. Jones, 2, Gabalva-terrace, Llandaff Yard.

FATAL FIRE-BRIGADE

On 30th September 1889 Llandaff Yard failed to show for a match against Mackintosh, The South Wales Echo.

FOOTBALL.

THE CARDIFF STAR A TEAM has still a few open dates. Apply W. Roberts, 244, Bute-road.

MACKINTOSH ROVERS V. LLANDAFF YARD.—This match should have been played at Llandaff Yard, but owing to the latter being unable to get a team together the match was postponed.

FOOTBALLS, Rugby and Association, at T. Page Wood and Co's, Cardiff. 8021

7th October 1889 The South Wales Daily News reported on another 'rough' game, this time away against Pentre, but notice that the team name here is Llandaff Yard 'Stars', difficult to believe that it is another / different team to that we are following.

and Mears.
PENTRE V. LLANDAFF YARD STARS.—Played on the ground of the former, and, after a rough and very unpleasant game, ended in a victory for the Stars by 1 try and 1 minor to 2 minors. The Llandaff Yard Club would like to arrange matches with junior clubs, average age, 14 years.
MARITIME (PONTYPRIDD) V. CAERPHILLY.—These

On the 14th October the same paper then reports on a Llandaff Yard Juniors match away at Cathays Stars and here we also see that the club is seeking to arrange games at junior level for 14 year olds.

the Star walked off the field.
LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS V. CATHAYS STARS.— Played on the ground of the latter, and ended in a victory for the Llandaff Yard by 2 goals, 1 try, to 2 tries.—The Llandaff Yard Club would like to arrange matches with any junior clubs, average age about 14 years.—Apply F. Matthews, Bryn Taf, Llandaff.
SILVER STARS V. SPLOT ROVERS.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in a draw for the Silver

While on the 15th October 1889, The South Wales Echo publish a brief account of a home win against Tredegarville.

in putting on three goals without allowing the Wanderers to score, and in the second half the local men were equally unsuccessful, the game ending:—Wolverhampton, 4 goals; Sunderland, nil.
LLANDAFF YARD V. TREDEGARVILLE.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for Llandaff Yard by 3 tries and 1 minor to 1 minor.
ENGLISH OFFICERS SHOT

4th November 1889 The Western Mail reported on an away match against Cathays Rangers played at the Barracks Field and transport difficulties seems to have played a part in the end result.

CATHAYS RANGERS V. LLANDAFF YARD.
 Played at the Barracks Field, and resulted in a win for Cathays by one goal, two tries, and four minors to nil. Owing to the late arrival of the Llandaff team a start was not made till about 4.20. The Rangers pressed in the first half when J. Alexander got over, and D. Goss kicked a goal. In the second half the Rangers played a good passing game, J. Alexander and D. Bellamy each getting tries.
CADOXTON AND BARRY V. COGAN.

18th November 1889 The South Wales Daily News reported on another junior game at home against Maindy Juniors.

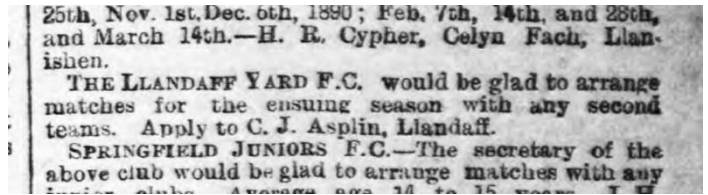
Score: 1 goal 2 tries each.
LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS V. MAINDY JUNIORS.— Played on the ground of the former, and ended in a win for the Llandaff Yard by 2 goals (one dropped), 2 tries, and 3 minors to 1 minor.
CATHAYS RANGERS V. MACKINTOSH ROVERS.—Played at Barracks Field, resulting in a win for the Rangers

Having been dogged by travel difficulties earlier in the month, the team then failed to show against Penarth 'A'. (22nd November 1889 The Barry Dock News.

tion those who use their strength skillfully.
 As Llandaff Yard failed to put in an appearance, the Penarth "A" team had no match.
 To-morrow, Penarth meet Pentre on the Penarth ground, kick off at 3.30; while the "A" team tries conclusions on the Pentre ground. Max two wins be recorded for Penarth is the

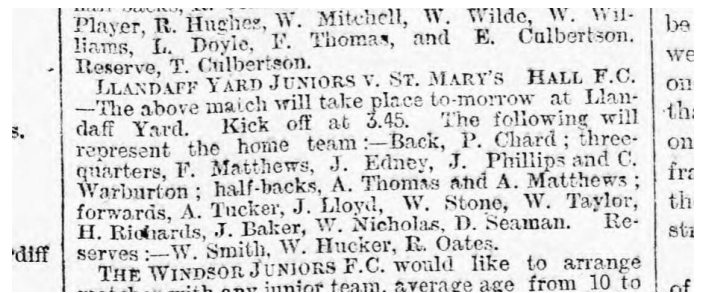
1890

Early season, advertising for 2nd team fixtures, 13th September 1890 The South Wales Echo

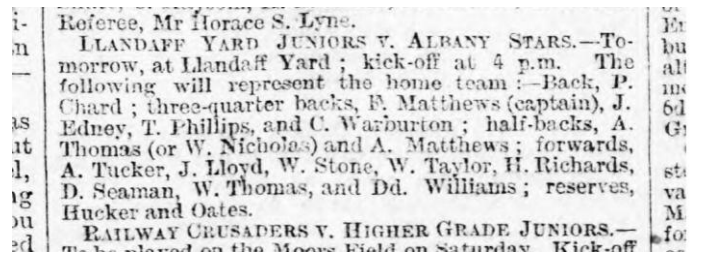


11th Oct South Wales Echo - LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS vs. COGAN WHITE ROSE.— Played at Cogan, and ended in a win for the visitors by 1 goal, 2 tries to 1

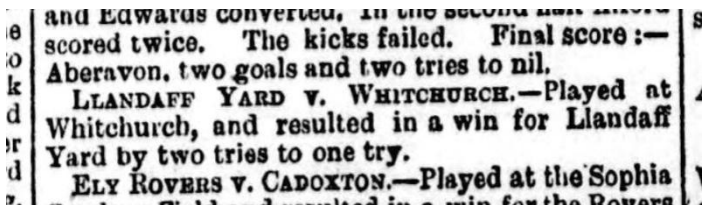
Here's a good one to consider, it gives us the player selections for the Llandaff Yard Juniors, 17th October 1890, The South Wales Echo. Compare these names with that of the Past vs Present game in March 1889 and you'll notice some familiar names. So just how junior was this team?



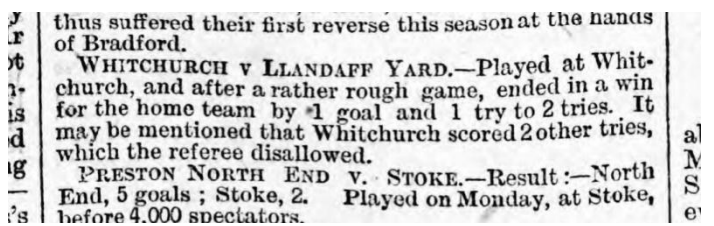
Almost an identical team then selected for the Juniors home match against Albany Stars, 24th October 1890, The South Wales Echo



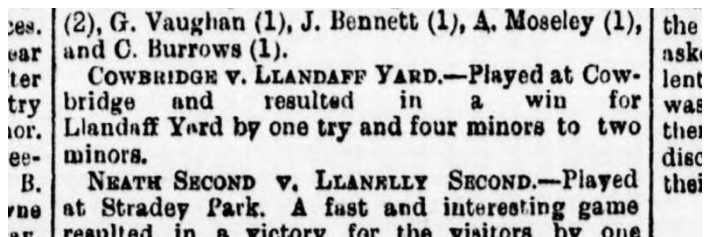
Here's one to contrast the fortunes, 3rd November 1890, The Western Mail



On a roll now and a good one to win, The Western Mail 10th November 1890



Or was it? Depends who writes it.....11th November 1890 The South Wales Daily News



The referee has his say, but note the address, 15th November 1890, The South Wales Daily News

Normal College, Bangor, 15th 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

A time when a draw wasn't the final result, 17th November 1890 The South Wales Daily News

BARRY ROVERS v. CADOXTON.—Played at Barry, resulting in a win for the Barry Rovers by 1 goal and 2 minors to nil.

MAINDEE UNITED v. LLANDAFF YARD.—Played at Llandaff Yard, and resulted in a draw in favour of Llandaff Yard, they having three minors to nil.

CAERPHILLY v. PONTYCLOWN.—Played at Caerphilly on Saturday, resulting in a win for the home team by

Llandaff Yard Juniors also getting a mention

at the Gardens, and ended in a win for Rovers by 1 goal, 2 tries, 4 minors to 1 minor.

LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS v. TALBOT STARS.—Played at the Sophia Gardens, and ended in a win for the Juniors by 1 goal (dropped), 1 try to nil.

SPLOTT ROVERS v. CARDIFF RANGERS.—Played at the Sophia Gardens, and ended in a win for the Rovers

The issues over disputed scores, 11th December 1890, The South Wales Daily News

RADYR FOOTBALL CLUB.
TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I beg to contradict the statement made in your issue of the 8th inst. with reference to the football match played between Llandaff Yard and Radyr. The proper score was: Llandaff Yard, 1 goal, 1 try, 1 minor; Radyr, 2 tries, and not 2 minors as indicated in your issue of the above-mentioned date. The decision was given by Mr J. George, of Llandaff Yard, who acted as referee.—I am, &c.,

JOSEPH SAMUEL, Hon Sec

It rumbled on, 15th December 1890, The South Wales Daily News

St. Peter's Parish Church, 1 minor.

RADYR v. LLANDAFF YARD.—Played at Llandaff Yard and resulted in a win for the home team by 5 goals, 2 tries, 1 minor to nil.

PORTH 2ND v. DOWLAIS 2ND.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for Porth by 1

1891

On 23rd July 1891, pre-season, Llandaff Yard Juniors once again advertised for fixtures, The South Wales Daily News

On 28th September 1891, the Llandaff Yard Juniors drew away at Ely, The South Wales Daily News

On 20th November 1891, one of the Llandaff Yard players (Peter Chard) played full back for Llandaff against Barry, both teams being short of a few regular players, Llandaff running out winners 5 Tries and 1 Minor to 1 Minor (The South Wales Star).

Nothing more was available in the archives for 1891 and 1892 was no better apart from this little snippet:...

It is of interest because it tells us of another team in the area, 'Llandaff Station' would you believe? 8th October 1892, The South Wales Daily News

Matches were played during this period of the club's existence (Ref fixtures appended to this document). This might be a case of the archive source not having records available at this moment, or the newspapers opting not to give the matches much attention at that time.

1893

To start the season the club advertised for fixtures, neatly placed under a Cardiff Rugby ticket ad. 18th September 1892, The South Wales Echo

played on the ground of the former, who combined in a draw, each side having scored a try.
CARDIFF FOOTBALL CLUB.—Ground Tickets, 5s; and Workmen's Tickets, 2s 6d, may be obtained of Messrs Hutchins and Co., 11, Duke-street Apply early; number limited. 1733—315e
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED require matches home next Saturday and Saturday week with good Juniors. Other dates open.—Apply R. Phelps, Llandaff Station 38e

27th October 1892, The South Wales Echo. The team selection for an away match at Barry.

Phillips, E. Williams, and J. Griffiths.
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED v. BARRY CRUSADERS.—At Barry. *United*—Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), J. Edney, W. Edney, and J. Davies; half backs, J. Berkeley and P. Chard; forwards, C. Moss, A. Moss, E. Williams, A. Thomas, J. Godsall, C. Brain, J. Phillips, and R. Evans.
PENARTH SWIFTS v. BARRY DISTRICT (ASSOCIATION).—At Penarth. *Swifts*—Goal. D. Field: backs.

On 1st December 1893, The Evening Express showed the team selection for the Llandaff Yard vs Cathays United home match with three Chard brothers and two Edney and two Moss boys all playing together.

J. Batstone, W. Purchase, J. Cravos, F. Cornish, and C. Spackman. Kick off at 3.15 sharp.
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED v. CATHAYS UNITED.—To be played at Llandaff. The Llandaff team will be as follows:—Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), J. Edney, W. Edney, and E. Boyer; half backs, J. Chard and P. Chard; forwards, E. Williams, C. Moss, A. Moss, W. Reynolds, C. Brain, J. Criddle, J. Godsall, and W. Taylor. Kick-off 3.30 p.m.
SCARLET RUNNERS v. CARDIFF STANDARD.—At Cathays. Kick off at three o'clock. Scarlet Runners

With a few changes in the line up this was the team selection for the away match against Loudouns, 15th December 1893, The Evening Express

W. Burgess, and H. Thomas.
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED v. LOUDOUNS.—At the Sophia Gardens. The Llandaff team will be as follows:—Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), J. Edney, P. Chard, and E. Boyer; half backs, J. Chard and G. Garland; forwards, E. Williams, A. Moss, C. Brain, J. Criddle, A. Thomas, W. Taylor, R. Phelps, and W. Reynolds.
ABERCARN v. PONTYMOILE.—At Abercarn. The following will represent Abercarn:—Back, W. Evans;

1894

On 26th January 1894 The Evening Express showed the team selections for the Llandaff Yard away match against Romilly. Quite where the Llandaff Yard 'United' team name came from is unclear, but the players are recognised names.

and W. Pritchard.
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED V. ROMILLY.—At Canton.
Llandaff United—Back, D. Seaman; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), J. Edney, S. Chard, and P. Chard; half backs, W. Edney and J. Hasley; forwards, E. Williams, J. Criddle, C. Brain, A. Moss, R. Evans, W. Reynolds, A. Thomas, and G. Garland.
Romilly—Back, F. W. Evans; three-quarter backs, B. Davies, Bickley, C. Thomas, and T. Rees, half-backs, S. Vaughan and T. Hopkins; forwards, W. Hart (capt.), E. Hill, F. Hart, A. Barrington, T. Baker, D. England, A. Price, and Phillips.
CATHAYS UNITED V. RICHMONDS.—At Cathays.
Richmonds—Back, D. W. Davies; three-quarter backs, A. A. Houghton, W. Lewis, W. H. Jones, and M. V...

The South Wales Echo, 16th February 1894 published the Llandaff Yard team selection for a home match against Roath United.

H. Diggs, W. Williams, D. Phillips, and A. Browne.
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED V. ROATH UNITED.—At Llandaff. *Llandaff United*—Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), J. Edney, D. Llewellyn, and J. Davies; half-backs, W. Edney and P. Chard; forwards, C. Moss, C. Brain, J. Criddle, A. Thomas, R. Evans, W. Reynolds, F. Hart, and G. Garland.
PONTYPRIDD V. FERNDALE.—At Pontypridd. *Ferndale*—Back, W. J. Davies; three-quarter backs, B.

On 23rd February 1894 The Evening Express printed the team selection for an away match at Ely Rangers

and F. Evans.
LLANDAFF YARD UNITED V. ELY RANGERS.—To be played at Ely. United team: Back, S. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), J. Edney, D. Llewellyn, and F. Matthews; half backs, W. Edney and P. Chard; forwards, A. Moss, C. Moss, J. Criddle, C. Brain, A. Thomas, E. Evans, J. Phillips, and W. Taylor. Reserve wing, H. Manson.
CANTON V. PONTYCLOWN.—To be played at Pontyclohn. Canton team: Back, H. Huzzey; three-

Advertising for fixtures once again, The South Wales Echo, 2nd October 1894 with the contact person's address (match sec.) given as Llandaff Station.

Brynmawr on Monday. Final score: Brynmawr, 3 goals (1 penalty) 5 tries; Pontlottyn, nil.
LLANDAFF YARD F.C. require match home with good team next Saturday. Other dates open.—
 Phelps, Llandaff Station. 698

You get the impression that the club, or, match secretary had a difficult time arranging fixtures, no doubt the clubs faced a challenging time attempting to match playing abilities rather than have matches that would prove to be too tough, or too easy, particularly with a players' welfare at stake. It's worth pointing out here that the home team were expected to reimburse the away side for travel expenses, whether this was a fixed 'fee' or not is difficult to tell but it was generally accepted that equity would be reached with the home side then honouring an away fixture under the same terms later in the season. Unfortunately this didn't always happen as we'll find out.

The team selection for the home fixture against Barry 'A', The South Wales Echo, 5th October 1894.

J. Edwards, W. Payne, and F. Jones.
LLANDAFF YARD V. BARRY A.—At Llandaff Yard. *Llandaff*—Back, J. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), F. Matthews, J. Edney, and W. Garland; half-backs, W. Edney and P. Chard; forwards, W. Evans, S. Evans, A. Thomas, J. Goddall, F. Seaman, G. Garland, S. Wickham, and W. Phillips.
PONTYMOILE V. NEWPORT A.—At Pontymoile. *Pontymoile*—Back, Tom James; three-quarter backs,

The South Wales Echo, 19th October 1894, showed the team selection for the home fixture against Ely Rangers

B. Rees, D. Williams, C. Morgan, and W. G. Thomas.
ELY RANGERS v. LLANDAFF YARD.—At Llandaff Yard. *Rangers*—Back, W. Barnes; three-quarter backs, G. A. Webber, F. Hill, S. Williams, and J. Coleman; half-backs, G. Osborne and W. Morgan; forwards, D. Woods, T. Davies, W. Hayes, J. Hayes, T. Murphy, W. Elliott, T. Keelan, and W. Emery.
Llandaff Yard—Back, P. Chard; three-quarter backs, W. Shapland (captain), F. Matthews, J. Edney, and W. Garland; half-backs, W. Edney and J. Chard; forwards, E. Williams, A. Moss, S. Evans, W. Evans, F. Seaman, W. Taylor, J. Godsall, and A. Thomas.
ELY UNITED v. CRINDAU JUNIORS.—At Newport. *United*—Back, J. Downie; three-quarter backs, E.

On 10th November 1894 one of the local results of interest was..... Llandaff Yard 2 Tries; St Mary's nil.....played at Sophia Gardens Field.

The South Wales Daily News on 26th November 1894, showed the result of an away match against Cathays Harlequins.

1 goal 1 try to nil.
LLANDAFF YARD v. CATHAYS HARLEQUINS.—Played at Cathays. Result: Llandaff Yard, 8 goals 6 tries; Cathays, nil.
CANAL ROVERS v. BRIDGE-STREET STARS.—Result: Rovers, 1 goal; Bridge-street, nil.
HAYES ROVERS v. CATHAYS STARS.—Result:

The South Wales Echo, on 7th December 1894 showed the team selection for the Llandaff Reserves team and it suggests that Llandaff Yard were playing at that level, recognising that Llandaff were one of the leading clubs in the region at that time.

J. Harman, D. Price, A. Chang, and T. Balsden.
LLANDAFF YARD v. LLANDAFF RESERVES.—At Llandaff. *Reserves*—Back, D. Collins; three-quarter backs, H. W. James, W. Tucker, J. Gorman, and M. Cheek; half-backs, I. Jones and D. Franks; forwards, J. Jenkins (capt.), F. Allen, J. M. Norman, W. Gyles, H. S. Wakelin, W. J. Ford, W. Rogle, and W. May.
GRANGETOWN v. ABERAVON.—At Aberavon. *Grange-*

The South Wales Daily News, on 24th December 1894 reported, briefly, very briefly, on a home match against Cathays United.

Alexandras by 3 goals 4 tries to nil.
LLANDAFF YARD v. CATHAYS UNITED.—Played at Llandaff Yard in very rough weather, and ended as follows: Llandaff Yard, 1 try; Cathays United, 1 penalty goal.

1895

For some this will come as a surprise, All Saints had a company of the Church Lads' Brigade (the organisation later becoming the Boys Brigade) and that rugby would have been part of their activities, 1st October 1895, The South Wales Echo.

at our only Welsh address, **ANDERSON AND**
Anderson, Ltd., 8, Queen-street, Cardiff. 119e
ALL SAINTS (Llandaff Yard) Company of
Church Lads' Brigade want to arrange fixtures with
clubs whose members are from 14 to 16 years of age.—
Write F. Seaman, Secretary, Llandaff Yard. 389
PENRHUW (PONTYPRIDD) FOOTBALL CLUB have
a few vacant dates for good second class teams.—Apply

Then on 5th October 1895 we see that the Llandaff Yard Boys' Brigade were due to play Llandaff Stars, the Stars team being published in The South Wales Daily News.

Thomas, W. Thomas, and another.
LLANDAFF YARD BOYS' BRIGADE v. LLANDAFF STARS.
 —At Llandaff. *Stars*—Back, T. Wedlake; three-quarter backs, S. Pollard, B. Jones, W. Vokes, and W. J. Phillips; half-backs, W. King and another; forwards, G. Rolfs, W. Jenkins, J. Massy, T. Jenkins, D. Evans, D. Morgan, F. A. James, and M. Brown.
CATHAYS v. LLANDAFF.—At Llandaff. *Cathays*—Back, W. G. Thomas; three-quarter backs, E. R.

Next it was The Barry Dock News that gave us this result on 25th October 1895.

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draw, minors only being notched.
BARRY DOCK CRUSADERS v. LLANDAFF YARD.—
This match was played on the ground of the
latter, and resulted in a win for Llandaff by one
goal and two tries to nil.

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Then in what seems to be a return match, on 8th November 1895, The South Wales Echo publish both teams for a Llandaff Stars match against All Saints Church Lads' Brigade.

Charles, L. Page, H. Summerhayes, and F. Hughes.
LLANDAFF STARS v. ALL SAINTS (LLANDAEF YARD) C.
L. BRIGADE.—At Llandaff Yard. Stars—Back, ———; three-quarter backs, M. Gallivan, A. Maxfield, C. Clarke, and S. Cousins; half-backs, H. Jones and E. Thomas; forwards, G. Rolfs, J. Casey, W. Griffiths, W. Jenkins, W. J. Phillips, W. Jenkins, J. Foster, and T. Davies. All Saints—Back, F. W. Seaman; three-quarter backs, A. Evans (captain), W. Legg, A. Gardiner, and G. Day; half-backs, J. Chard and D. Taylor; forwards, W. Lister, T. Lister, T. John, T. Williams, J. Poole, E. Taylor, W. Tucker, and W. Evans.

Some of the All Saints lads will later go on to become players of Llandaff Yard

Here's an interesting one for the community, it tells of a benefit match for 'an old comrade in difficulties' and the Mr Evans mentioned within was probably David Evans the owner of Evans Foundry also known as the Eagle Foundry. 15th November 1895 The Evening Express. We are left to wonder where that field was and if it was just behind the foundry then it might have been where the tennis courts are now on Hailey Park.

to ensue.

To-morrow afternoon a football match will take place at Llandaff Yard (in a field kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Evans, of the Foundry) between the local club and fifteen of the old fossils. The action of those concerned in the matter deserves a word of commendation, for the match has been arranged with the object of aiding an old comrade who is in difficulties.

WELSH ATHLETE.

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In all likelihood, this was the result of that match, described slightly differently, but the 'virile against the worn out' really only had one outcome, 18th November 1895 The South Wales Daily News.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER

SPLOTT RAGLAN 2ND v. LLANDAFF STAR.—Played at Llandaff. After a close game the Raglans won by 1 try to nil.
SINGLE MEN v. MARRIED.—Played at Llandaff Yard, and after a hard game resulted in a win for the Single Men by 3 tries to nil.
ROATH STARS v. WHITCHURCH STARS.—Played at Whitchrch, and resulted in a win for the Stars by 1 try 6 minors to nil. J. Bowen scored.

With the All Saints flying the Llandaff Yard flag in the press it was The Evening Express that showed this fixture in their publication on 24th December 1895 for a Christmas Day match... "All Saints (Llandaff Yard) vs St Michael's 2nds".

1896

1895 was still short of relevant research material and 1896 fared no better.....

Here we have the Llandaff Yard team for a game against Heath Rovers to be played at Whitchurch, 14th February 1896 from The South Wales Echo

LLANDAFF YARD V. HEATH ROVERS --At Whitchurch. *Llandaff Yard*—Back, S. Chard; three, quarter backs, J. Glendining, T. Thomas, A. Thomas, and W. Shapland; half-backs, the brothers Chard; forwards, A. Moss, W. Oldfield, J. Criddle, C. Brain, E. Parsons, W. Salmon, J. Phillips, and W. Broad.

A noticeable part of this is that among the changes in personnel was J. Glendining now playing for Llandaff Yard, but, prior to this season, he had been a star player with Whitchurch. 1896 also saw a few of the Llandaff Yard stalwarts now playing for Whitchurch.

It wasn't just a case of player movement either, in previous seasons Whitchurch had been through a difficult time, but had a fixture list that was perhaps more attractive to play in than did Llandaff Yard, in this cutting of 23rd July 1896 from The Evening Express, the appointment of 'officers' at the Whitchurch Rugby AGM had a notable Llandaff Yard presence.

consisted of a 100-guinea grand piano.

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.

Over recent seasons, very little was available in the archive searches, even finding a scheduled fixture was a rare occurrence and we know from the adverts so far that Llandaff Yard rugby was seeking fixtures. It's difficult to escape from the notion that the club were having a tough time if only because it had little to no press coverage while other teams/clubs were well covered and for 1896 no scheduled fixtures could be found either. At the time Whitchurch were playing against 'more established' opponents and travelling further for them, they were also playing against opponents such as Cardiff Reserves at The Arms Park, Newport 2nds, Pontypridd, Caerphilly and teams of that type. There are also financial implications in all this, 'gate money' from people watching was in reality the main source of income and there were costs that needed to be covered and if the matches / opponents were not attracting public interest this would have been an issue, particularly so having to compete, in a business sense, with their neighbours who had a more 'attractive' fixture list. Another thing to consider here is declining industry in the area which would have had a severe affect on employment and family income. The Glamorganshire Canal was 'on its last legs', the Melin Gruffydd works was not the same as it had once been and the labour intensive industries in the area were all struggling.

1897

Nothing much changed throughout 1897. All Saints carried on regardless, 5th February 1897 The South Wales Echo


Francis, A Price, W Cole, W Allen, and another.
LLANDAFF YARD ALL SAINTS v. ROATH-ROAD JUNIORS.—At Llandaff Yard. *Llandaff*—Back, F Seaman; three-quarter backs, A J Evans, D J Tuckett, G Day, and W. Legge; half-backs, W Evans and J Evans; forwards, T Williams, H Wickman, D Higgins, D J Davies, W Legge, C Morgan, G Pitcher, and N Holtam.
PONTYPRIDD A v. TREHERBERT A.—At Treherbert. *Pontypridd*—Back, T Lewis: three-quarter backs. H

As if to buck the trend The South Wales Daily News on 11th October 1897 then mention two Llandaff Yard Juniors brothers making a name for themselves with Cardiff, the ‘Dobson Brothers’ and in a column headlined “Men Who Are Talked About” the brothers get their moment in the sun.

warrant officer, is one of the most popular men in football circles in the district, and is at all times a hail fellow, well met.

CARDIFF STALWARTS.

In the Brothers Dobson Cardiff has two scrummagers of far more than ordinary merit, and men who are of a stamp which the Welsh Metropolitanans have not been able to command in recent years. The elder Mr Dobson — Thomas — has played for Cardiff for several seasons, and has never been



THE BROTHERS DOBSON.

unworthy of his selection. He has turned 25, stands 5ft. 9in., and is a 12-stoner. Having played for junior clubs at Blackweir and Llandaff Yard for a season each, he went to Llwynypia, where, in association with Dr. Wilfrid Daniel, he materially contributed to the success of a club now come into the front ranks. Tom, who was born in Edinburgh, has played for Glamorgan County four times, and has been on the reserve list for International honours no fewer than three times. The strong point in his play is his cleverness in the open. This year he has been selected to skipper the scrummagers, and a more popular choice could not have been made. Brother George came to the front towards the close of last season, and—excepting, perhaps, Frank Mills—no player of note developed into a first-class player so speedily. Like his brother he

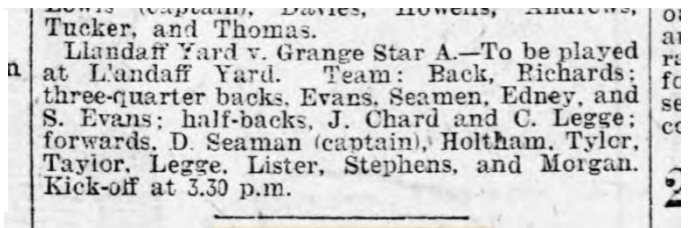
is clever in the open, is a hard pusher in the tight mauls, and his defence is beyond criticism. “Plant ‘em deep” is the Dobson motto. George was born at Pontypridd in 1873, and 5ft. 10in. in height weighs well over 13 stone. He has maintained his splendid form this year, and his claims to highest honours are irresistible.

PANTYPRIDD SUBSTITUTES

1898

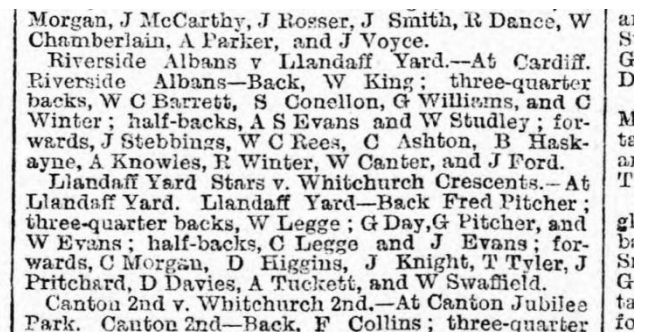
In 1898 things started to change.

The boys are back, up and running, on 30th September 1898 The Evening Express showed this team selection for a home game against Grange Stars

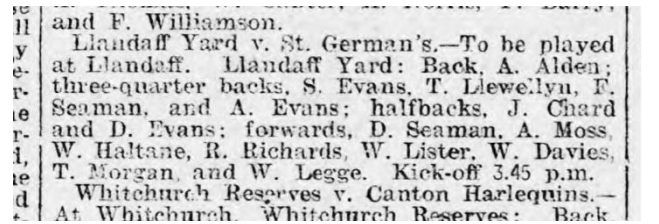


On 24th October 1898 The Western Mail printed this result....Llandaff Yard, 2 Goals; Cardiff Excelsiors, nil.

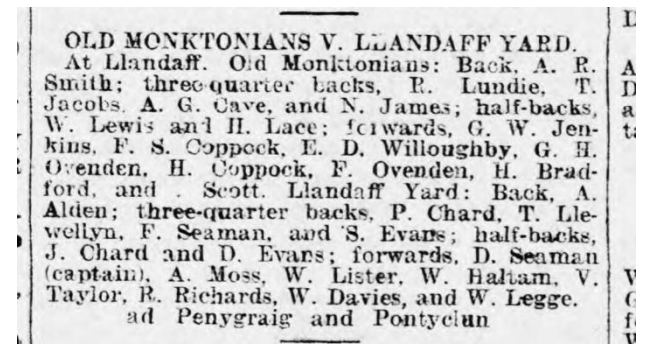
Now we are rolling, 11th November 1898, The South Wales Echo published both 1st and 2nd team fixtures for their games publishing the 2nd team selection. The 'Llandaff Yard Stars' is undoubtedly Llandaff Yard 2nds judging by the names of the players. The strength of the club, in numbers, has seemingly returned.



On 18th November 1898 The Evening Express published the team selection for the 1st team match, home, against St German's



On 25th November 1898 The Evening Express provided the teams for Llandaff Yard's match against Old Monktonians and lo and behold some of the better known players have returned from Whitchurch, in what looks like a strong team.



As Christmas and the end of the year approached things were on the move, here we have the team selection for a 2nd team game away at Canton, 8th December 1898, The South Wales Echo

Cavanagh.
Llandaff Yard Seconds v. Canton Juniors.—At Canton. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Pitcher; three-quarter backs, W Legge, G Pitcher, J Evans, and T Morgan; half-backs, W Evans and C Legge; forwards, D Higgins, D Thomas, S Price, C Morgan, J Knight, D Davies, F Richards, and A Tuckett. Canton—Back, H J Check; three-quarter backs, H Shields, C Howells, D Thomas, and W Williams; half-backs, J King and J Bartlett; forwards, W Davies (captain), C Keir, L Davies, A Baugh, E Bramhall, S Ballett, T Pepperall, and C Martin.
Grange Thistles v. Radyr Crescents.—At Grange.

Here's one that might surprise local people, it's the team selection for 'Primrose Hill' an area of Llandaff North that was once in and around Llandaff (for Whitchurch) Station. To know that the area could field a few separate rugby teams at this time is inspiring. 16th December 1898 The Evening Express

Primrose Hill v. Radyr.—Primrose Hill: Back, B. Wills; three-quarter backs, C. Samuel, Honway, H. Morgan, and J. Eartridge; half-backs, D. Samuel and J. Edwards; forwards, D. Pike (captain), W. Bakemore, W. Bromton, B. King, W. Evans, W. Wilding, W. Price, and R. Humphreys; reserves, R. Humphreys and G. Davies. Referee, Mr. W. E. Monger; touch judge, T. King. Kick-off at 3.15; start from Primrose Hill at half-past two.
Merthyr Vale v. Merthyr Alexanders.—At Merthyr.

In what looks likely to be a Christmas Eve match, this team selection was published for a 2nd team match against Llandaff, 23rd December 1898, The South Wales Echo

L. Powell, G. Gronow, and S. Parlour.
Llandaff Yard 2nd v Llandaff 2nd.—At Llandaff. Llandaff Yard—Back, F. Pitcher; three-quarter backs, G. Pitcher, W. Evans, S. Price, and T. Morgan; half-backs, C. Legge and J. Evans; forwards, W. Legge, E. Holtam, C. Morgan, D. Higgins, J. Knight, W. Lewis, F. Richards, and T. Tyler. Llandaff—Back, C. Morgan; three-quarter backs, W. Clarke, G. Bush, A. Jenkins, and C. Merritt; half-backs, J. Massey and W. Wood; forwards, T. Dare, F. Landsey, C. Body, H. John, H. Reece, W. Hewitt, F. Evans, and V. Blundell.
Pentvrech v Cowbridge 2nd.—At Cowbridge on Boxing Day. Pentvrech—Back, T. Miles; three-

On 26th December 1898 The South Wales Echo showed the result....Llandaff Yard, 1 dropped goal; Cardiff Hornets, nil.

30th December 1898, The South Wales Echo publish both 1st and 2nd team selections for games against Penylan and St Catherine's in what were probably New Years Eve fixtures and the last of 1898

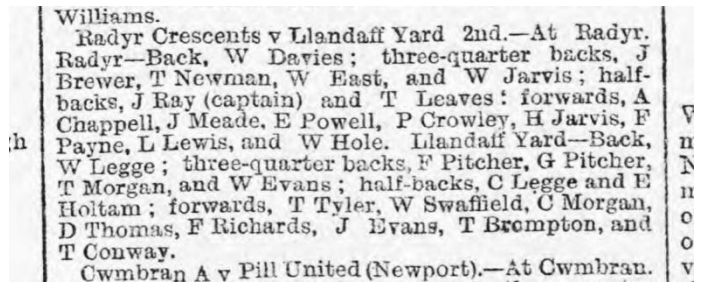
Llewellyn, T Osborne, C Jenkins, B Roper, G Evans, T Evans, and G Llewellyn.
Llandaff Yard v Penylan.—At Roath. Llandaff Yard—Back, T Boothby; three-quarter backs, P Chard, F Seaman, A Alden, and S Evans; half-backs, J Chard, and J Kent; forwards, D Seaman, A Moss, W Lister, W Holtham, A Leaves, R Richards, E Taylor, and T Thomas.
Grange Stars v St. Peter's 2nd.—At Grandgetown. Stars—Back, Bond; three-quarter backs, Lewis.

G Gillard, G Smith, T Haines, T Lewis, and J Hartree.
Llandaff Yard 2nd v St. Catherine's.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Legge; three-quarter backs, F Pitcher, G Pitcher, T Morgan, and W Evans; half-backs, C Legge and E Holtham; forwards, N Thomas, T Tyler, C Morgan, F Richards, D Thomas, J Knight, S Price, and W Swaffield.
Cadroxton Harlequins v Canton Crusaders.—At Cadroxton. Harlequins—Back, T Rimron; three-

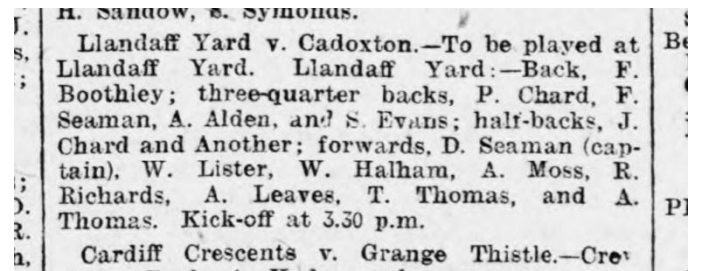
1899

In sharp contrast we now have a significant change in local newspaper coverage:

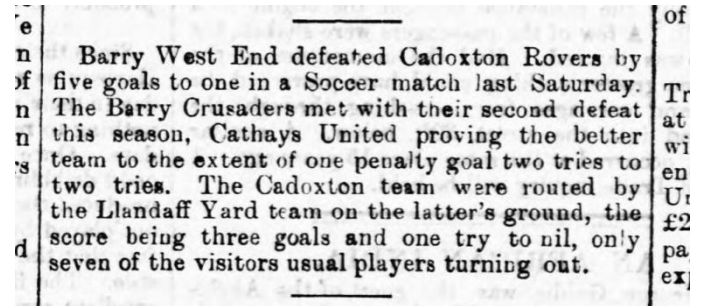
Early in the New Year, 6th January 1899 The South Wales Daily News published the team selections for the Llandaff Yard 2nds match away against Radyr.



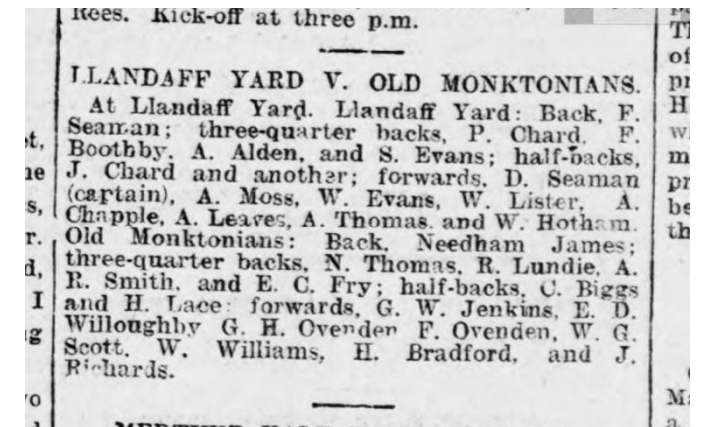
On 13th January 1899 The Evening Express published the team selected to play against Cadoxton at home, k.o. 3 30pm, with many changes from the previous week.



Here's the result, from The Barry Herald who also managed to get their sports mixed up, 20th January 1899



The next challenge was published in The Evening Express on 27th January 1899, a home game against Old Monks



3rd February 1899 The Evening Express show the team selections for a home match against Penylan.

Llandaff Yard v. Penylan.—At Llandaff. Llandaff Yard: Back, F. Seaman; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, F. Boothley, A. Alden, and S. Evans; half-backs, J. Chard and A. N. Other; forwards, D. Seaman (captain), A. Moss, A. Leaves, A. Chapple, C. Samuel, W. Holtham, F. Thomas, and A. Thomas. Penylan: Back, W. J. Winfield; three-quarter backs, W. D. Thomas, L. Naish, C. Thomas, and H. Davies (captain); half-backs, E. Dutton and H. Hyde; forwards, D. Owen, D. L. Evans, R. J. Auckland, F. C. Coppock, J. Niblett, E. Harvey, A. E. Harding, and E. Johnson.

Cathays Star v. Riverside Seconds.—Cathays

10th February 1899 The Evening Express show the team selection for a match against Llandaff.

Llandaff Yard v. Llandaff.—At Llandaff. Llandaff: Back, T. Seaman; three-quarter backs, P. Chard, F. Boothley, A. Alden, and S. Evans; half-backs, J. Chard and A. N. Other; forwards, D. Seaman (captain), A. Moss, A. Leaves, C. Samuel, A. Thomas, W. Holham, A. Chapple, and T. Thomas.

Cathays United v. Cadoxton Crescents... At

Here's the result, 13th February 1899, The South Wales Daily News

LLANDAFF YARD v LLANDAFF.		
Final Score—		
Llandaff Yard.....	1	1
Llandaff.....	0	0
DINAS POWIS v COWBRIDGE.		

On 17th February 1899, The Evening Express publish the 2nd team selection for an away match with Grange.

Llandaff Yard Seconds v. Grange United.—At Grange. Llandaff Yard: Back, Tyler; three-quarter backs, F. Pitcher, G. Pitcher, W. Legge (captain), and W. Evans; half-backs, C. Legge and W. Lewis; forwards, T. Morgan, F. Richards, W. Swaffield, G. Brown, W. Evans, J. Evans, W. Evans, and D. Thomas.

Llwynypia A v. Belle Vue Boys.—At Llwynypia

Meanwhile the paper also showed the 1st team selection for their game at home against Penylan

Llandaff Yard v. Penylan.—At Llandaff. Llandaff Yard: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, B. Chard, F. Boothley, A. Alden, and S. Evans; half-backs, J. Chard and A. N. Other; forwards, D. Seaman, A. Moss, A. Leaves, W. Evans, A. N. Other, F. Seaman, A. Thomas, and W. Holtham. Kick-off at 3.45 p.m.

Cathays United v. Cadoxton Crescents (Second

30 of Llandaff Yard's finest, on display for all to see.

The Pitcher's; the Legge's; the Chard's, plenty of Evans's but this week just the one Holtham.

Still the club advertise for fixtures offering half the gate money to attract interest, this time on 20th February 1899 in The South Wales Echo, directly under a big Cardiff Rugby derby game.

CARDIFF ARMS PARK.
NEWPORT v. CARDIFF, Saturday, Feb. 25th.
Tickets for reserved seats, inside ropes, grand stand side, are now ready and may be obtained on application. Price, One Shilling each, which does not include admission to ground. 9191
83c Chas. S. Arthur, 53, Queen-street, Cardiff.
LLANDAFF YARD F.C. want match home or away next Saturday; terms half gate.—Apply at once Phelps, Llandaff Yard. 457

3rd March 1899 The Evening Express show the team selected for an away match at Barry Dock

son.
 Llandaff Yard v. Barry Dock.—At Barry Dock. Llandaff Yard: Back, A. Alden; three-quarter backs, R. Seaman, T. Boothley, G. Day, and S. Evans; half-backs, P. Chard and J. Chard; forwards, D. Seaman (captain), W. Evans, A. Chapple, A. Leaves, T. Thomas, W. Holham, T. Holham, and C. Samuel.
 Nantygaw Juniors v. Treforest Juniors.—At Treforest. Nantygaw: Back, G. Warren; three-

10th March 1899, The Evening Express, the team selection for a home match against Cadoxton

Llandaff Yard v. Cadoxton.—At Cadoxton. Llandaff Yard: Back, W. Davies; three-quarter backs, C. Seaman, F. Boothley, G. Day, and T. Thomas; half-backs, P. Chard and J. Chard; forwards, D. Seaman (captain), W. Evans, A. Chapple, W. Holtam, T. Holtam, C. Samuel, T. Seaman, and A. Thomas. Break leaves headquarters at 2.30 sharp.
 Penarth Windsor Stars v. St. Mary's Hall

'Out of the blue' from The Barry Dock News we then get an update on a Llandaff Yard Juniors team with a good win over Cadoxton, 17th March 1899

The local junior matches played last Saturday resulted as follows:—Cadoxton were defeated by Llandaff Yard on their own ground by two tries to one goal; Barry West End played the Grenvilles at Cardiff, the former winning by two goals to one; the Barry Dock Albions also visited Cardiff, and Singletons were obliged to acknowledge defeat at their hands by three goals to nil.

On 24th March 1899 The South Wales Echo provide us with one to conjour, the Llandaff Yard team selected to face Penarth Stars and also a Llandaff Yard 'Old Boys' team who fancy their chances against Brewery United, quite why an old boys team would want to play against a brewery team is probably lost on a few.

Morgan, R Cokeley, and J Harding.
 Llandaff Yard Old Boys v Brewery United.—At Llandaff. Old Boys—Back, J Steele; three-quarters, S M Charley, J Hughes, W Walker, and R Napier; half-backs, A T Cow and M Bun; forwards, W Steele, G Steele, W Stone, G Asplin, W H Cann, F Harris, T Jones, and Hedges.
 Llandaff Yard v Penarth Stars.—At Penarth. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davies; three-quarter backs, C Seaman, F Seaman, G Day, and S Evans; half-backs, P Chard and J Chard; forwards, D Seaman (captain), W Evans, A Moss, A Chapple, A Leaves, T Holtam, C Samuel, and T Thomas.
 Llantrisant v Clydach Vale.—At Llantrisant. Back, H Leatham; three-quarter backs

3rd April 1899 The South Wales Daily News show this result, a home win for the 'Yardies' and fortunes seem to be on the up.

Brecon, ml.
 Llandaff Yard v. Cathays United.—Played at Llandaff on Saturday, the home team winning by 2 goals (1 dropped) to 1 converted goal.
 Roath Raglans v. Splott Excelsiors.—Played at Roath Park. Final score: Raglans, 1 penalty goal 2

Then we get a big surprise, having generally concluded that the entire club had been previously 'dormant', on 17th April 1899 The South Wales Echo publish this gem which tells us that the 'Juniors' had been thriving and apart from this success it's also a significant boost for future prospects.

But here's the one for local interest to round the season off with, 21st April 1899, The Evening Express and note the referee. This match became a fixture for future seasons, proving such an attraction that Llandaff Yard and Whitchurch played against each other 3 times / season

This is how it went, 24th April 1899 The South Wales Daily News

So, Llandaff Yard seem to have had a pretty decent season and they thought so too, The South Wales Daily News, 26th April 1899. Note the home venue and the 'slight' recognition of the 'energetic secretary', a well deserved presentation, somebody who seems to have made a huge difference in the fortunes of the club.

Then to add to all the surprises and confusion, we then get this, 19th July 1899 in The South Wales Echo, just "the 2nd AGM" which places the 1st AGM in 1898 when we know the club were playing for many seasons prior. All this tends to show that for the 'barren' years of 1896 and 1897 something must have happened, just as we suspected and here we have the phoenix rising from the ashes.

So from this time onwards whatever year you choose to be the date of the club's origin is up to you.

FOOTBALL.
Llandaff Juniors v. Penarth United. — At Llandaff Yard on Saturday. The visitors having won the Junior Cup, considerable interest was manifested in the game. Llandaff held the upper hand throughout, Tuckett scoring twice after magnificent runs. Jenkins dropped a goal from halfway. Final score: Llandaff, 2 goals (one dropped) and 1 try; Penarth United, nil.
DEVON v GIAMORGAN

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.

LLANDAFF YARD.
Football Club.—To celebrate the close of a very successful season the members of this club sat down to a capital dinner on Saturday evening at their headquarters, the Railway Hotel, Llandaff Station. The proceedings were interspersed with excellent songs and recitations. The event of the evening was the presentation to Mr Richard Phelps, the energetic secretary of the club, of a handsome pipe as a slight recognition of the manner in which he has steered the club to success.

FOOTBALL.
LLANDAFF YARD CLUB.
The second annual meeting of the above club was held at the National School, Llandaff Yard. The Secretary read the balance-sheet for the past season, which showed a small amount in hand. The following officers were elected for the coming season:—A. Moss, captain; S. Evans, vice-captain; William Phelps, treasurer; and the same committee as last year, with the addition of Messrs E. Lewis and A. Chapple. The Secretary (Mr R. C. Phelps) during the evening expressed a wish to resign his post, as he intends leaving the district in a few weeks, and Mr Theo. Tyler was elected secretary unanimously in his place. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr R. C. Phelps for the valuable services he has rendered the club in the past, and the members at the same time expressed a feeling of regret at his resignation.

To kick the 1899 – 1900 season off, on 9th September 1899 The South Wales Daily News publish the 1st team selection for a 1sts vs 2nd team match. It's a pity the 2nd team names are missing.

James, W Stubbs, W Dunscombe, E Jennings, and F Watkins.
 Llandaff Yard First Fifteen v Second Fifteen.—
 Second Fifteen—Back, J Pritchard; three-quarter backs, F Pitcher, G Pitcher, W Lewis, and W Evans; half backs, C Legge (captain) and W Swaffield; forwards, W Russell, T Swaffield, S Price, T Morgan, W Legge, E Holtam, C Morgan, and J Brown.
 Cardiff Mackintosh v Ebbw Vale.—At Ebbw Vale. Mackintosh—Back. W Jones: three-quarter backs.

It even had a bit of coverage, 11th September 1899 in The South Wales Daily News

Llandaff Yard v. Second XV.—This game, meant as a practice match for the Llandaff Yard team, was played on Saturday. Nearly all the old members turned out, and a good game ensued.
 Central Stars v. Peterstone.—Played at Peterstone. Result: Win for the Stars by 1 goal 1 try to

On 23rd September 1899 The South Wales Daily News publish the team selection for a home match against St Andrew's.

Llandaff Yard v. St. Andrew's.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davies; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B John, A Evans, and F Seaman; half-backs, D Evans and W Griffiths; forwards, A Moss (captain), A Leaves, V Taylor, T Holtam, W Holtam, D Seaman, C Samuels, and R Richards.
 St. Peter's v. Penylan.—At Cardiff. Peny-

The next was a an away game against Penarth Reserves, 29th September 1899, The Evening Express

PENARTH RESERVES V. LLANDAFF YARD.
 At Penarth. Penarth Reserves: Back, Theo Jones; three-quarter backs, W. Johnson, C. Yeld, D. Griffiths, and F. Tillett; half-backs, A. Osborne and D. L. Griffiths (captain); forwards, R. Vaughan, R. Blackmore, W. Hamilton, G. Best, W. Matthews, W. Evans, L. Thomas, and S. Shier. Llandaff Yard: Back, W. Davies; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, B. John, A. Evans, and A. N. Other; half-backs, W. Griffiths and T. Leaves; forwards, A. Moss (captain), A. Leaves, T. Holtam, D. Seaman, W. Holtam, C. Samuels, R. Richards, and F. Seaman. Break leaves Llandaff Yard at 2.15 p.m. sharp.

Penarth were on it that day just taking the honours, but a rare and welcome report on the game, 30th September 1899, The Evening Express

PENARTH RESERVE V. LLANDAFF YARD.
 Played at Penarth, in miserable football weather. Llandaff Yard were 70 minutes late. The visitors commenced operations against the wind, and Johnson returned to about the centre, where several scrums were formed. Eventually Tilly snapped up a pass, but was collared about five yards from the line. On the re-start Llandaff Yard went away with a dash, and penned the homesters for a considerable period, but were unable to break the stubborn defence offered. Shortly before time was called Davis scored for Penarth. Final score:—Penarth Reserves, two tries; Llandaff Yard, nil.

On 7th October 1899 The South Wales Daily News publish the team selection for Llandaff Yard's home match against Abercynon.

Amos, S Mould, and W Jarvis.
 Llandaff Yard v Abercynon.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davies; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B Johns, A Evans, and another; half-backs, W Griffiths and B Evans; forwards, A Moss (captain), D Seaman, T Holtam, W Holtam, R Richards, D Pugh, T Morgan, and W Russell.
 Riverside v Loudouns.—At Leckwith Common. Riverside—Back. A Godolphin; three-quarter backs,

On the 9th October The South Wales Daily News showed this result.....Llandaff Yard 2nds, 4 Goals; Llandaff 2nds 1 Goal.

Here we have a 2nd team selection for an away match against Grange, 14th October 1899, The South Wales Daily News, with 3 Holtam brothers having played for the club over the past week.

King, F Bray, F Hissey, E Dugmore, and J Baker.
Llandaff Yard Seconds v Grange Thistle.—At Grange. Llandaff Yard—Back, A Knight; three-quarter backs, F Pitcher, G Pitcher, W Lewis, and W Legge; half-backs, C Legge (captain) and W Evans; forwards, W Swaffield, E Holtam, J Brown, J Pritchard, T Williams, T Brompton, D Davies, and D Thomas.
Splott Albion v Taff's Well United.—At Splott, Splott—Back, P Cooper; three-quarter backs, T

On 13th October 1899 The South Wales Echo publish the team selection for Llandaff Yard's home match against Treforest Rangers.

Yates, and M Parker.
Llandaff Yard v Treforest Rangers.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davies; three-quarter backs, B J Tuckett, B John, A Evans, and another; half-backs, W Griffiths and D Samuels; forwards, A Moss, T Holtam, W Holtam, R Richards, C Samuels, D Pugh, T Morgan, and W Russell.
ASSOCIATION

Just for the record, Llandaff Yard and Grangetown drew, 1Try each.

Here's another good one for local people 21st October 1899 The South Wales Daily News publish the 1st and 2nd team selections for games against Llandaff and Penylan 2nds providing us with the names of all those that represented the club that day

and E Knight.
Llandaff v Llandaff Yard.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff—Back, A Alden (captain); three-quarter backs, J Summers, F Winter, H Mussey, and S Meaker; half-backs, A Jenkins and S Shepstone; forwards G Rolf, A Thomas, T Howe, W Perkins, W Rowland, W J Phillips, Cornish, and W McKay. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davies; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B John, D Evans, and A Evans; half-backs, W Griffiths and D Samuel; forwards, A Moss, R Richards, F Seaman, D Pugh, C Samul, W Russell, T Holtam, and W Holtam.
Llandaff Yard 2nd v Penylan 2nd.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Richards; three-quarter backs, A Gardiner, W Lewis, G Pitcher, and F Pitcher; half-backs, C Legge (captain) and W Evans; forwards, E Holtam, W Swaffield, J Brown, T Swaffield, J Pritchard, T Morgan, T Brompton, and T Williams. Penylan—Back, J P Mountjoy three-quarter backs, S Rees (captain), I Nicholls, G Nicholls, and S Elston; half-backs, S Smith and P Jones; forwards, W Evans, E Phillips, R Evans, C King, B James, F Yates, M Parker, and G Stratton.
Roath Reserves v Pentyrch.—At Roath Park.

Score: Llandaff Yard 3 Goals; Llandaff, nil

On 30th October 1899 one of the local results was: Blackweir, 1 Goal, 2 Tries and 2 Minors; Llandaff Yard, 2 Goals, 2 Minors.

3rd November 1899 The South Wales Echo published the team selections for the Llandaff Yard 2nds match against Grange.

Sanders, and G Anstey.
Llandaff Yard 2nds v Grange United.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, T Brompton; three-quarter backs, F Pitcher, G Pitcher, I Fry, and W Legge; half-backs, W Lewis and C Legge (capt.); forwards, T Swaffield, W Swaffield, N Holtam, J Pritchard, T Williams, T Morgan, A Gardiner, and C Morgan. Grangelown—Back, W Frank Young; three-quarter backs, E T Elliott, T U Spencer (capt.), R Williams, and W E Thomas; half-backs D H Davies and A Parsons; forwards, J R Gough, R Lloyd, L Hodgkinson, L Imperato, D H Davies, C McDonald, Alf Gear, and W Smith.
Canton v. Cowbridge.—At Cowbridge. Canton—Back, C Morgan; three-quarter backs, J Humbley, N

The Llandaff Yard team selected for a home match against Penylan, 10th November 1899, The South Wales Echo

Llandaff Yard v Penylan.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Richards; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B John, A Evans, and T L Williams; half-backs, W Griffiths and W Davies; forwards, A Moss, T Holtam, W Holtam, R Richards, W Russell, A Thomas, A Wills, and J Brown.
Grange Thistles v Penarth Excelsiors.—At Penarth. Grange Thistles—Back, T Long; three-quarter backs,

17th November 1899 The South Wales Echo published the team selections for the Llandaff Yard match against Canton.

Fisher, and W Campbell.
 Llandaff Yard v Canton Rovers.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Richards; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, A Evans, B John, and T L Williams; half-backs, W Griffiths and A Jenkins; forwards, A Moss, T Holtam, R Richards, W Russell, J Brown, A Thomas, A Wiles, and Dudley. Rovers—Back, C Brewer; three-quarter backs, J France, B Jones, J Mawn, and T Wilson; half-backs, G Bird (captain) and W Ward; forwards, F Weaver, E John, W Marshall, W Harding, E Lovering, S Griffith, F Edwards, and J Harding.
 Riverside v Roath Albions.—At Leckwith Common.

The players selected for a 2nd team match at home against St Agnes, 24th November 1899

Jenkins.
 Llandaff Yard 2nd v St. Agnes Reserves.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, T Morgan; three-quarter backs, F Pitcher, G Pitcher, W Lewis, and W Legge; half-backs, C Legge (captain) and W Evans; forwards, B Holtam, J Pritchard, W Elliott, F Chivers, W Swaffield, D Higgins, C Morgan, and another. St. Agnes—Back, J Stone; three-quarter backs, W Clarke, W Rice, W Viney, and T Read; half-backs, G Greenslade and A Howitt; forwards, A Miles, J McIntyre, H Rice, A Parsons, T Dunster, G Bond, L Brown, and S Brooks.
 St. Catherine's v Grange United.—At Grange. St. Catherine's—Back, B Lee; three-quarter backs, W

On 1st December 1899 The Evening Express published the team selections for Llandaff Yard 2nds away at St Fagan's and you sense that there's been a step up in opposition.

G. Anstey, and J. Follett.
 Llandaff Yard Seconds v. St. Fagan's.—At St Fagan's. Llandaff Yard: Back, D. Davies; three-quarter backs, F. Pitcher, G. Pitcher, T. Swaffield, and W. Legge; half-backs, C. Legge (captain) and W. Lewis; forwards, E. Holtam, J. Britchard, F. Chivers, W. Swaffield, T. Williams, W. Elliott, A. Gardner, and C. Morgan. St. Fagan's: Back, C. Spiller; three-quarter backs, V. Davies (captain), G. Culverwell, C. Roper, and A. Baker; half-backs, C. Culverwell and T. Davies; forwards, H. Bevan, W. Burke, H. Spiller, A. Dowler, J. Hunter, F. King, G. Hunter, and D. Matthews.
 St. Peter's United v. Windsor Stars.—At

The South Wales Daily News on the other hand publish the Llandaff Yard 1st team for a home match against Penarth Stars, 2nd December 1899

Davies, J Casper, and H Maplestone.
 Llandaff Yard v Penarth Stars.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Richards; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B John, A Evans, and W Davies; half-backs, W Griffiths and W Evans; forwards, A Moss, T Holtam, W Holtam, R Richards, W Russell, J Brown, Dudley, and D Higgins.
 Penarth Thistles v Penarth Excelsiors.—At Penarth. Thistles—Back, A Rowles (captain); three

While on the 8th December 1899 The South Wales Echo show both team selections for the home match against Old Monktonians

J Thomas, and D Jones.
 Llandaff Yard v Old Monktonians.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Richards; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B John, A Evans, and T L Williams; half-backs, W Griffiths and W Evans; forwards, A Moss (captain), T Holtam, A Leaves, R Richards, W Russell, J Brown, Dudley, and A Gardner. Old Monktonians—Back, A R Smith; three-quarter backs, R Lundy, G Treharne, R M Elliot, and G L Strachan; half-backs, H Lace and E D Davies; forwards, G W Jenkins (captain), E D Willoughby, T Richards, R Bartlett, F Jones, G Ovenden, F Ovenden, and W Williams.
 Ynysir Scarlets v. Ton Juniors.—At Ynysir.

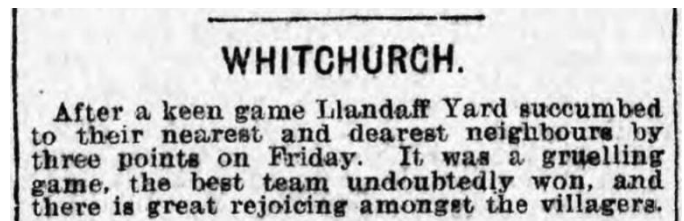
For the final game of the year this was the team selected for an away Match against St. Andrew's, 29th December 1899 The South Wales Echo

Spiller, F King, J Hunter, W Burke, G Hunter, W Phillips, and S Littleton.
 Llandaff Yard v St Andrews.—At Cardiff. Llandaff Yard—Back, F Richards; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, B John, A Evans, and T L Williams; half-backs, W Griffiths and another; forwards, A Moss (captain), A Leaves, T Holtam, R Richards, D Seaman, A Gardner, Dudley, and J Brown.
 Llandaff 2nd v. St Catherine's Athletic.—At Llandaff Fields. Llandaff—Back, J Williams; three-

1900 and a new millennium

But little to show for it.....

Bragging rights at work, the pub, among neighbours and no doubt within the family, 5th January 1900, The Evening Express



But didn't have to wait long for better things, 22nd January 1900, The South Wales Daily News.

Harlequins	0	1	0
LLANDAFF YARD v LLANDAFF.			
At Llandaff.			
	Final Score—		G. T. M.
Llandaff Yard.....	*1	3	0
Llandaff.....	0	1	0
*From a mark.			

This was a good result, on paper, or on grass, 5th February 1900, The South Wales Daily News.

backs playing for all they were worth.

LLANDAFF YARD v. COWBRIDGE.			
At Llandaff Yard, on a slippery turf, before a fair attendance. The visitors played several substitutes. The homesters played smartly, and were superior all round, John and Tuckett scoring tries, one of which was converted, followed by two others, which remained unconverted.			
	Final Score—		G. T. M.
Llandaff Yard.....	1	3	0
Cowbridge.....	0	0	0

3rd March 1900, The South Wales Daily News showed the team selections for Llandaff Yard vs Cathays United.

Llandaff Yard v. Cathays United.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davis; three-quarter backs, D J Tuckett, E John, A Evans, and T L Williams; half-backs, W Griffiths and G Day; forwards, A Moss (captain), T Holtam, W Holtam, R Richards, A Leaves, Dudley, J Brown, and W Russell. Cathays—Back, W Travers; three-quarter backs, H Rice, D David, F Ball, and D Shanley; half-backs, C Usher and W Pelley; forwards, W Marks (captain), M Murphy, H Silvey, W Atkins, J Torrington, T Keatings Rudd, E Marks, and Horton.

Mackintosh v. Blaenavon.—At Blaenavon. Mackintosh—Back, W Jones; three-quarter backs, T Elliott

The team selection for a home match against Dinas Powis, 24th March 1900 The South Wales Daily News.

mond, T James, G Thomas, D Akerman, T J Rees, and T Morgan.

Llandaff Yard v Dinas Powis.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard—Back, W Davies; three-quarters, Brum, B John, G Day, and G Pitcher; half-backs, J Cooke and W Evans; forwards, D Seaman, T Holtam, W Holtam, R Richards, J Richards, A Dudley, W Russell, and W Elliott. Dinas Powis—Back, E Cule; three-quarter backs, D Thomas, H T Williams, J Davies, and C Harry; half-backs, T Franks and C Price; forwards, A Trott, E Franks, A Canter, H Miller, T Vincent, T Rose, W Spear, and W Coombs.

Llandaff v Pontyclun A.—At Pontyclun. Llandaff—Back, J Danks; three-quarter backs, H Massey, T

That was it for 1900, on the face of it, it doesn't tell us much, but we do get to see player's names and we also get to know what opposition the club was playing against and those shown above were all well run, established clubs of a high standard.

1901

4th April 1901, The Evening Express showed a showpiece end to the season with a representative team playing an 'exhibition game' and with a few interesting names in the team above it as well helping Whitchurch out.

at above.
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. Salman 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. GOOD-FELLOW'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.

On 4th October 1901 The Evening Express published the team selected for a home game against Loudoun Reserves.

coll, and T. J. Browne.
Llandaff Yard United v. Loudoun Reserves.
 -At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, G. Day; three-quarter backs, W. Hewett, A. Evans, T. Howe, and W. Legge; half-backs, C. Legge and A. Jenkins; forwards, E. Holtham (captain), G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, D. Mahoney, F. Seaman, W. Blewett, W. Swaffield, and H. Wickham.
Gabalfa Harlequins Juniors v. St. Albans.

1st November 1901 saw a fixture arranged with Great Western Juniors, The Evening Express and the use of the name 'Juniors' does tend to confuse judging by the players picked for the game.

Stacey, W. Thomas, E. Scammell, J. Hover, and P. O'Brien.
Llandaff Yard v. Great Western Juniors.
 -At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lea; three-quarter backs, G. Day, A. Evans, T. Howe, and W. Legge; half-backs, A. Jenkins and C. Legge; forwards, E. Holtham (captain), G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, W. Swaffield, T. Mahoney, W. Blewett, H. Massey, and H. Wickham.
Mr. J. Mills's Team v. Loudouns.-At Cardiff. Mr. J. Mills's team: Back, J. Collins:

The result here was Llandaff Yard, 3 Goals; G.W. Juniors nil

On 2nd December 1901, local results showed Llandaff Yard 1 Try; Tongwynlais, nil.

6th December 1901 saw a tough fixture arranged with the Old Monktonians, The Evening Express

EVENING EXPRESS
 Davies, W. Hill, D. Hopkins, D. Arthur, Bob Jones, and W. Francis.
Old Monktonians v. Llandaff Yard United.
 -At Llandaff. Llandaff Yard United: Back, Bert Lee; three-quarter backs, A. Evans, P. Hill, J. Evans, and G. Pitcher; half-backs, C. Legge and J. Chard; forwards, C. Holtam (captain), J. Pritchard, T. Mahoney, A. Moss, W. Legge, W. Swaffield, F. Seaman, and H. Evans.
Pandy Excelsiors v. Tylorstown.-Pandy:

It's worth including this, because it gives us a feel for what was happening at that time, Dai Tuckett had been playing for Llandaff Yard in previous seasons and you begin to detect a close relationship with these two clubs, a collaboration we'll see more of later, 7th December, The Evening Express

Poachers have been very busy down Whitchurch way this last week. They seem to have taken quite a fancy to one of the centres.

Dai Tuckett, has decided to turn out on the wing once more. Whitchurch spectators will now see some passing, as the backs have only to get a little help from the pack in letting them have the ball from the scrum.

Maesteg were greatly handicapped in their

At the same time, the paper also published this little snippet.

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.

What's a "Babs" match? Barbarians perhaps? The Evening Express on 21st December 1901 clearly had a high regard for some of the Llandaff Yard players, humorously describing it as a "grate tussle", if intended.

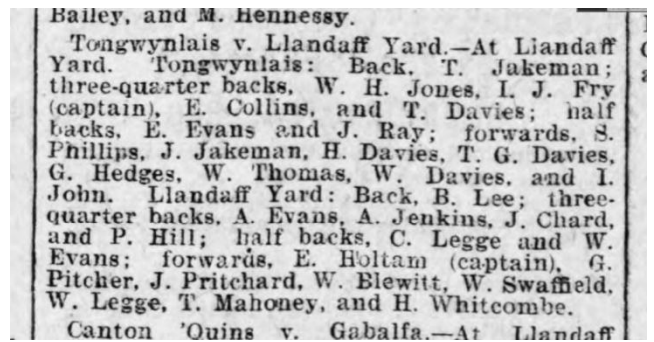
Local football enthusiasts are looking forward with great interest to the Llandaff Yard v. Taff Vale "Babs" match at Llandaff Yard on Christmas morning. It is quite possible that the Brothers Chard may be persuaded to turnout for Llandaff Yard, together with Dai Tuckett, in which case some of those burly Taff forwards will have to look out. Referee Phelps holds the whistle in this "grate tussle."

1902

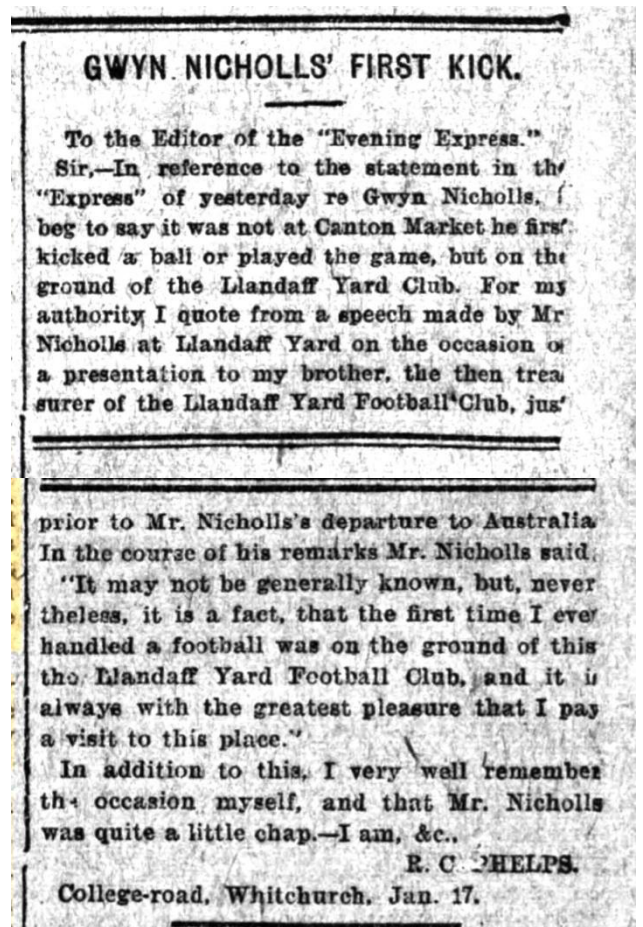
Have a sit down, there's a lot to get through.....

So early in the New Year and one of the first games was a local derby match against Tongwynlais, both team selections being published on 17th January 1902, The Evening Express.

The result was: Tongwynlais 1 Goal and 1 Try; Llandaff Yard 1 Try.

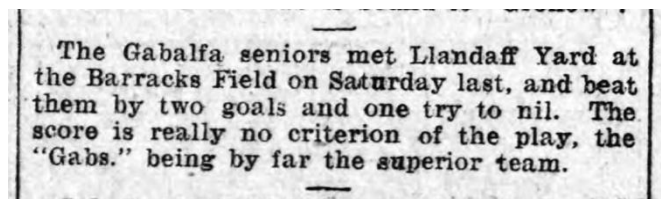


Gwyn Nicholls was one of Cardiff and Wales, all time stars and much play was made of his connection with Llandaff Yard, this print out was of a letter that had been sent in to the newspaper and published on 18th January 1902, The Evening Express (right and below) and what better can you get than to get the view of a local man.



On 27th January 1902 local results showed Llandaff Yard 1 Try; Empire United, nil

Humbled the previous Saturday though, 27th January 1902, The Evening Express.



On 14th February 1902, The Evening Express published this team selection for an away match at Williamstown in the Rhondda

den. D. Ford, H. Miller, and A. Franks.
 Williamstown v. Llandaff Yard United.—At Williamstown. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, A. Tuckitt, A. Jenkins, A. Evans, and W. Hewitt; half backs, W. Evans and C. Legge; forwards, C. Holtam (captain), G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, W. Legge, W. Blewitt, T. Mahoney, H. Whitcombe, and T. Morgan.
 Merthyr Vale v. Merthyr Excelsiors.—At

On 15th February 1902, The Evening Express published a match report on a derby against Tongwynlais rounding off with a complimentary note on the quality of 'dribblers'.

saturday last against Ogmore Seconds. He played a good game. He is rather light yet, but he is a promising player.
 The result of last Saturday's match between Llandaff Yard United and Tongwynlais was a rude shock to the supporters of the latter team. The keenest rivalry has been shown this year between the two clubs, and prior to Saturday's match both clubs could point to a victory each. The third and concluding match took place on the Tongwynlais enclosure, and, as Llandaff Yard

suffered from absenteeism, it seemed a foregone conclusion that Tongwynlais would win. This opinion appeared to be confirmed when Ton scored two tries in quick succession. This only had the effect of waking up the visitors, and they realised that they must play for all they were worth to secure a win, and to this end their forwards played magnificently. Time after time they swept the ball by their dribbling to within an ace of scoring, but at the critical moment the ball would go astray. In the second half, however, they were not to be denied, and George Pitcher paved the way to victory by his splendid run and score. This brilliant success on the part of Pitcher had its effect, and soon the visitors followed by adding two more unconverted tries to their score. This lead they maintained to the end, and thus secured victory by three points.
 The Llandaff Yard team have a fine quartette of dribblers in Holtam, Pitcher, Legge, and Pritchard, and they can always be relied upon to make things warm for their opponents.

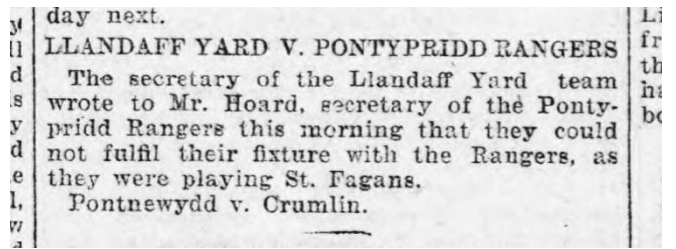
On 20th February 1902, The Evening Express published the team for an away match at Williamstown.

den. D. Ford, H. Miller, and A. Franks.
 Williamstown v. Llandaff Yard United.—At Williamstown. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, A. Tuckitt, A. Jenkins, A. Evans, and W. Hewitt; half backs, W. Evans and C. Legge; forwards, C. Holtam (captain), G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, W. Legge, W. Blewitt, T. Mahoney, H. Whitcombe, and T. Morgan.
 Merthyr Vale v. Merthyr Excelsiors.—At

21st February 1902 The Evening Express published the team selections for an away game at St. Fagan's, peace has broken out, but notice the meeting and travel arrangements for Llandaff Yard, a brake was one of the old time buses.

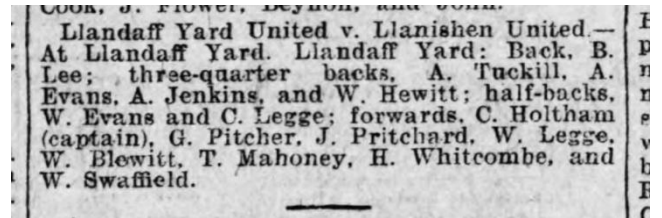
J. Creed, G. Evans, and D. Davies.
 St. Fagan's v. Llandaff Yard.—At St. Fagan's. St. Fagan's: Back, D. Strand Matthews; three-quarter backs, V. Davies, C. Roper, A. Wait, and A. Baker; half-backs, G. and C. Culverwell; forwards (selected from) A. Matthews, T. Davies, G. Littleton, J. Shunter, C. Hunter, A. F. Bryce, A. C. Cook, G. Hunter, C. Mildon, and F. E. Edmunds. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, A. Tuckitt, A. Evans, G. Pitcher, and W. Hewitt; half-backs, A. Jenkins and B. Nicholas; forwards, C. Holtam (captain), J. Pritchard, W. Legge, T. Mahoney, W. Blewitt, T. Morgan, H. Whitcombe, and J. Brown. Brake leaves Cow and Snuffers at 2.45 sharp.
 Merthyr Vale Juniors v. Argoed.—At Merthyr

On 22nd February 1902, The Evening Express made sure everyone knew what was happening.



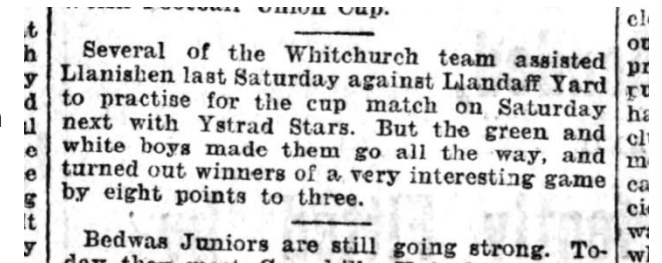
The score was St. Fagan's 1 Goal and 1 Try; Llandaff Yard, 1 Try.

On 14th March 1902, The Evening Express published this team selection for a local derby against Llanishen at home

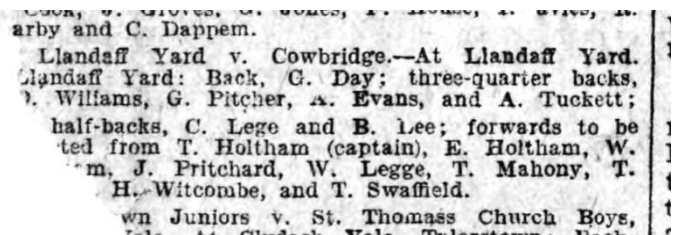


On 17th March 1902 local results showed Llandaff Yard 1 Goal and 1 Try; Llanishen, nil.

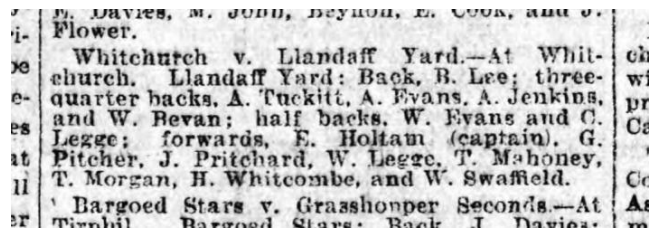
So, in this match there was more to it than meets the eye, on 22nd March 1902, The Evening Express published this little update on an interesting development and collaboration amongst the local teams, Llandaff Yard having an eye on a bigger prize.



Although damaged, this cutting gives us part of the team selected to play against Cowbridge 24th March 1902, The Evening Express.

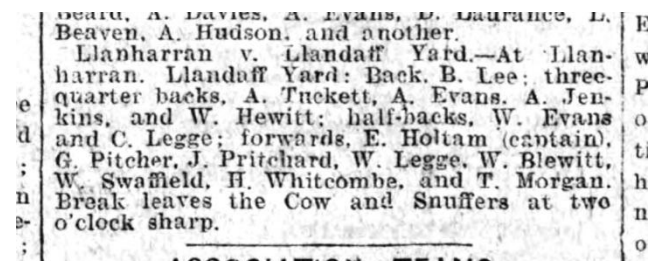


On 4th April 1902, The Evening Express published this team selection for the 'Match of the Day' against Whitchurch, one no doubt designed to round the season off and attract a big gate.



The result of this match was Whitchurch, 1 Try; Llandaff Yard, 1 Goal and 1 Try.

On 21st March 1902, The Evening Express published this team selection for a home game against Llanharan



Then the club gets entangled in a bit of nonsense and don't come out of it too well if the 'opponent's correspondent' is on the level, 12th April 1902, The Evening Express (right).

It didn't end there though, on 19th April 1902 The Evening Express published an alternative view of things (below).....

The secretary of the Llandaff Yard Football Club writes:—I see by the remarks in the columns of the "Football Express" of last Saturday that a St. Fagan's correspondent seems to be a little excited over the remarks made by a Llandaff Yard correspondent in the previous week's "Express," but I think it would have been much more honourable of the St. Fagan's Club had they turned up to play Llandaff Yard their return match, instead of sending a postcard stating their inability to raise a team, yet, at the same time there were over twenty members of the St. Fagan's Club out having a practice game on Good Friday. This is not very consistent with the postcard that reached the secretary of the Llandaff Yard Club on the Saturday following.

A Tynhill correspondent writes:—Seeing

General Rugby Gossip.

A St. Fagan's correspondent writes:—"Looking through the columns of last Saturday's football "Express," I noticed some remarks made by a Llandaff Yard correspondent against the St. Fagan's club. The correspondent asserts that St. Fagan's were due to play at Llandaff Yard on Good Friday, but, he writes, not only did they fail to put in an appearance, but also did not let the secretary know until the following day of their inability to turn up. Allow me on behalf of the St. Fagan's club, to give an emphatic denial to this statement, for not only were they informed on the day before the match of the inability of the Saints to raise a team, but one of their players also came over Good Friday morning and was given a definite answer by the secretary of the St. Fagan's club. The Llandaff Yard correspondent also adds that the St. Fagan's team have only played three matches away from home the whole season. Allow me to state that out of the 24 matches played by the Saints this season, fourteen have been played away from home. I do not know whether the Llandaff Yard club are still smarting under the defeat inflicted on them by the Saints or what. But I don't think it reflects much credit or honour, on the part of the Llandaff Yard club to send such a tissue of falsehoods to the press, which are calculated to do injury to the St. Fagan's club.

Dowlais shares in the success achieved by

On 14th April 1902, match results showed: Llandaff Yard, 4 Goals and 4 Tries; Llanishen, nil.

Towards the end of the season the club had an attractive fixture scheduled against Cowbridge, the team selection being published on 18th April 1902 The Evening Express

Llandaff Yard v. Cowbridge.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, A. Tuckitt, A. Evans, A. Jenkins, and W. Hewitt; half backs, C. Legge and S. O. Eise; forwards, E. Holtam (captain), C. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, W. Legge, T. Mahoney, T. Morgan, H. Whitcombe and G. Day.

Tynysybwll v. Tymawr Rovers.—At Tynysybwll.

Some reading this will be aware of Gwyn Nicholls, he was a rugby super star of his day and he had a strong link with Llandaff Yard not just with the laundry that was at one time in Andrews Road, but also with the rugby, this connection will be revealed in due course but this cutting gives us a bit of a lead in, dated 15th August 1902, The Evening Express

FOOTBALL.

Will Nicholls Play for Cardiff?

Much comment is being aroused in Newport football circles over the fact that Gwyn Nicholls and Winfield have acquired the Victoria Hygienic Laundry at Llandaff Yard, Cardiff. It is generally believed that this will mean that Nicholls will play for his old comrades at Cardiff next season. When seen by one of our reporters to-day, Nicholls refused to give his intentions for the present, remarking that "I have not thought about it yet. We will not open our Cardiff business for a month at least, so that I cannot say what I shall do just yet." It ought to be stated that Nicholls and Winfield are at present managing a very successful window-cleaning business at Newport.

(Other football news on Page 4.)

Photo Aberly, Built in Wells.

FOOTBALL.

Gwyn Nicholls and Cardiff.

Will Gwyn Nicholls play for Cardiff this season? Indications seem to point in that direction. Yesterday an "Evening Express" representative saw Nicholls's business partner and bosom friend, H. B. Winfield, the elected captain of the Cardiff Club, and put the all-important question to him.

"Well, I really can't say whether he will or not," replied Mr. Winfield. "It's perfectly true, though, that we have bought that business at Llandaff Yard."

"And Mr. Nicholls will reside at Cardiff?"

"Yes."

"Oh, then, he will play for his old team?"

"I can't say, indeed, what he will do. You had better ask Gwyn himself."

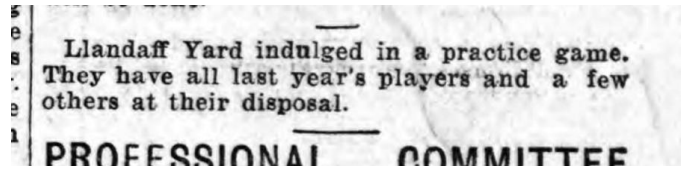
Seen yesterday by our Newport representative, Mr. Nicholls would not give a definite answer. We can only leave our readers to draw their own conclusion.

RANSBALL

Such was the excitement that the paper also published this on 14th August....(left)

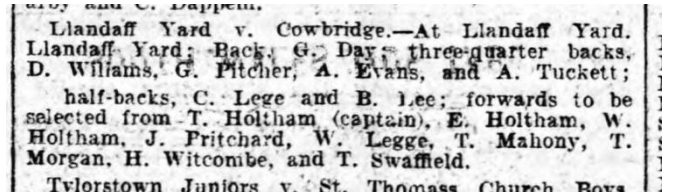
On 16th August 1902 the Whitchurch fixture list was published in the Evening Express and once again three games were scheduled against near neighbours, Llandaff Yard.

20th September 1902, The Evening Express....The start of season 1902 - 03

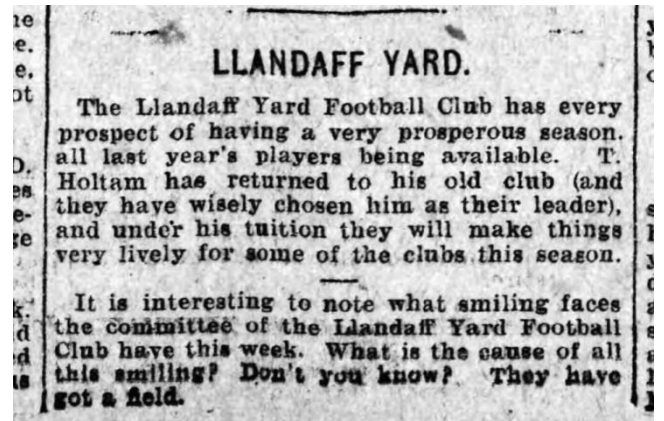


On 22nd September 1902, local results showed: Gabalfa 2 Goals and 1 Try: Llandaff Yard nil.

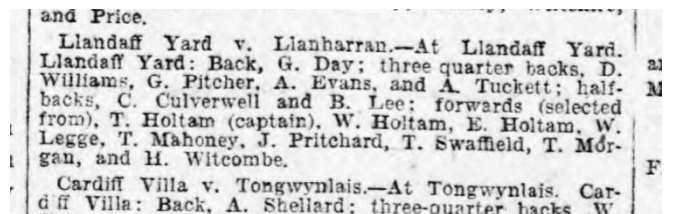
On 26th September 1902 The Evening Express published this team selection for a home match against Cowbridge



While on the 27th September 1902, The Evening Express made all sorts of optimistic sounds with this update. Clearly the club is on a roll now and are relishing a new season, but where would that 'field' have been?

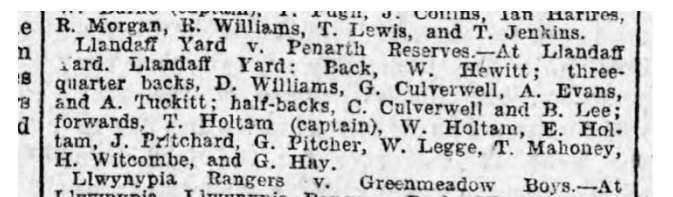


On 3rd October 1902, The Evening Express published this team selection for the game against Llanharan.



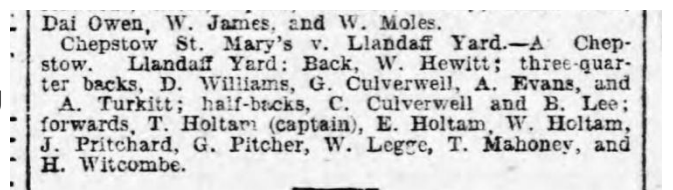
The result was...Llanharan 1 Goal; Llandaff Yard, 1 Dropped Goal.

With a few changes, this team was selected for the next game against Penarth Reserves, 10th October 1902, The Evening Express



The result ending up: Llandaff Yard 1 Goal; Penarth, 1 Try.

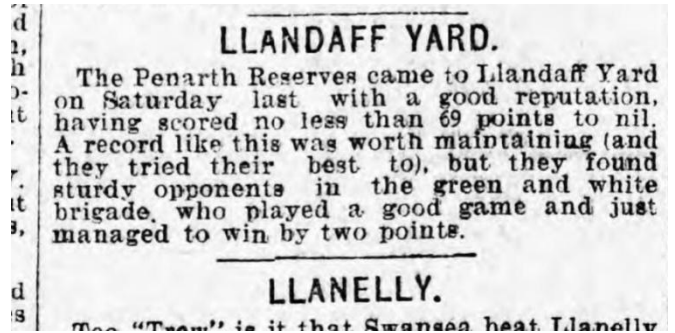
Here we see the team selected for a home match against Chepstow who would have made a long journey to get here, The Evening Express, 17th October 1902



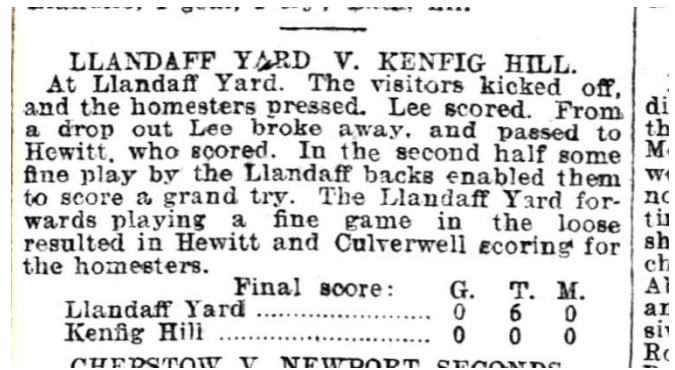
The result was Chepstow, 1 Goal and 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil.

Having provided the team selection for the Penarth game above (10th Oct) we then get this from The Evening Express on 18th October 1902 and what a great result it was.

Not just that but we get to find out what colours Llandaff Yard played in.

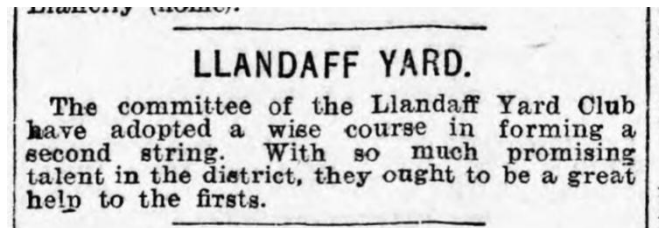


Here's a brief and rare match report on a match against Kenfig Hill, The Evening Express, 25th October 1902



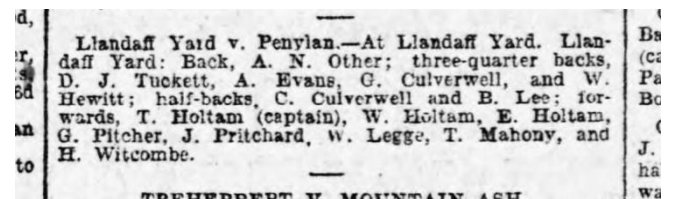
On 1st November 1902 one of the rugby score lines read, Llandaff Yard, 2 Goals and 1 Try; Llanharan, 1 Dropped Goal

Such was the progress, confidence and ambition within the club that The Evening Express saw fit to publish this update, 1st November 1902

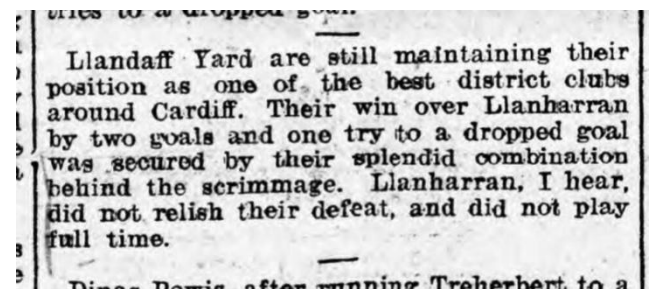


The next game was against Whitchurch and on 3rd November 1902 The Evening Express showed this score line: Whitchurch, 1 Dropped Goal; Llandaff Yard, nil, a closely run game clearly.

The next game was at home against Penylan The Evening Express publishing this team selection on 7th November 1902



You may have noticed a change in fortunes for the club and it wasn't lost on The Evening Express either, 8th November 1902, although the Llanharan score line quoted was different to one that had been published a few days earlier.



On 15th November 1902 the local results showed: Llandaff Yard 1 Goal; Penarth United nil. "Tuckett scored" and a 2nd team score line that read: Dinas Powis Reserves 2 Goals and 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard 2nds, nil.

The 15th November 1902 in The Evening Express, saw more praise heaped on the club following their game against Penylan and this time the score was provided in points rather than Goals and Tries.

LLANDAFF.

The Llandaff Yard team are improving in every match they play, and on their present form it is doubtful whether they can be beaten by any team in Cardiff or the surrounding neighbourhood. Already, this season, they have defeated such teams as Cowbridge, Llanharran, Kenfig Hill, and Penarth Reserves, and last Saturday they registered another win by defeating Penylan to the tune of eight points to nil.

The game with Penylan was a very pleasant one, and was contested in the best of spirit. The home three-quarters did not have many opportunities of showing their powers of

On 17th November 1902 The Evening Express printed the results of recent matches that showed: Dinas Powis Reserves, 2 Goals and 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard 2nds, nil.

On 21st November 1902 The Barry Herald took delight in announcing that "A Rugby Club has been started at Barry, with "Bill Davies" the old Cardiff forward at the head of affairs" and then followed that up with "Dinas Powis Reserves, 2 Goals and 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil, "An easy victory".

Showing these results is really intended to provide a feel for how the club is progressing, win or lose, the fact is that the club was able to field two sides on a regular basis and compete amongst other clubs of similar standing.

The 21st November 1902 in The Evening Express, these 1st and 2nd teams were selected for a match at home against Llantrisant and the 2nds away against Whitchurch Crescents.

<p>Moneton, B. Belmont, and F. Richards.</p> <p>Llandaff Yard v. Llantrisant.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three quarter backs, H. Hewitt, C. Culverwell, A. Evans, and D. J. Tuckett; half-backs, C. Culverwell and P. Chard; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, E. Holtam, G. Pitcher, T. Mahoney, J. Pritchard, W. Legge, and T. Morgan.</p> <p>St. David's v. Roath.—At Sophia Gardens. St David's:</p>	<p>Williams, Ben Williams, F. Nash, and S. Edgar.</p> <p>Whitchurch Crescents v. Llandaff Yard Seconds.—At Whitchurch. Crescents: Back, S. Stephens; three-quarter backs, W. Bevan (captain), W. Jones, T. Tucker, and W. Llewellyn; half-backs, R. Davies and J. Phillips; forwards, C. Broad, T. Baskerville, A. Pearce, W. Sprudd, W. Bodman, T. Smart, L. Davey, and A. Partridge.</p> <p>Penarth Reserves v. Castleton.—At Castleton. Penarth Reserves: Back, R. C. Thomas; three-quarter backs, J.</p>	<p>Er wa do Ed At</p>
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Whitchurch Crescents. 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard 2nds, nil.

Here's a good one with local interest 28th November 1902 in The Evening Express, showing both team selections for a Llandaff Yard vs Whitchurch match, rivals, friends, neighbours and workmates.

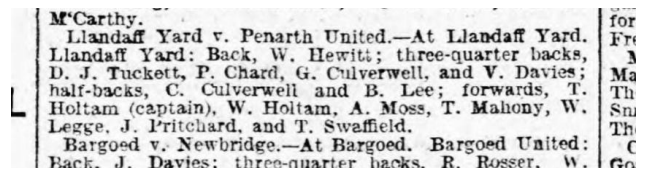
<p>Jones, R. Morgan, J. Fairfax, and J. Collins.</p> <p>Llandaff Yard v. Whitchurch.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, P. Chard, G. Culverwell, and A. Evans; half-backs, C. Culverwell and A. N. Oher; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, E. Holtam, G. Pitcher, W. Legge, T. Mahony, J. Pritchard, and H. Whitcombe.</p> <p>Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. John, S. George, B. John, and A. Owen; half-backs, W. G. Jones and T. Ross; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), D. Pike, W. Jenkins, C. Hawkins, B. Wills, A. Thomas, J. Pearce, and T. Richards.</p> <p>Loudouns v. Canton.—At Jubilee Park. Canton:</p>	<p>Er wa do Ed At</p>
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The anticipation even had the newspaper excited 29th November 1902, The Evening Express and we also get to learn that Llandaff Yard have a change of kit colour



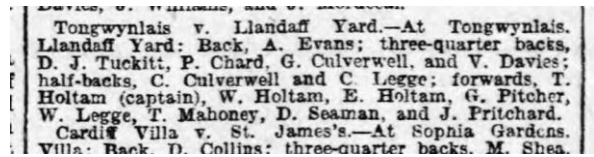
On 1st December 1902, in a highly anticipated local encounter, Llandaff Yard and Whitchurch drew nil, nil and on the 8th December Llandaff Yard 2nds beat Blackweir Crescents, 2 Goals and 2 Tries to nil.

On 12th December 1902, the club picked this team for a tough home game against Penarth United with the return of a few 'established names' from previous seasons having returned, The Evening Express.

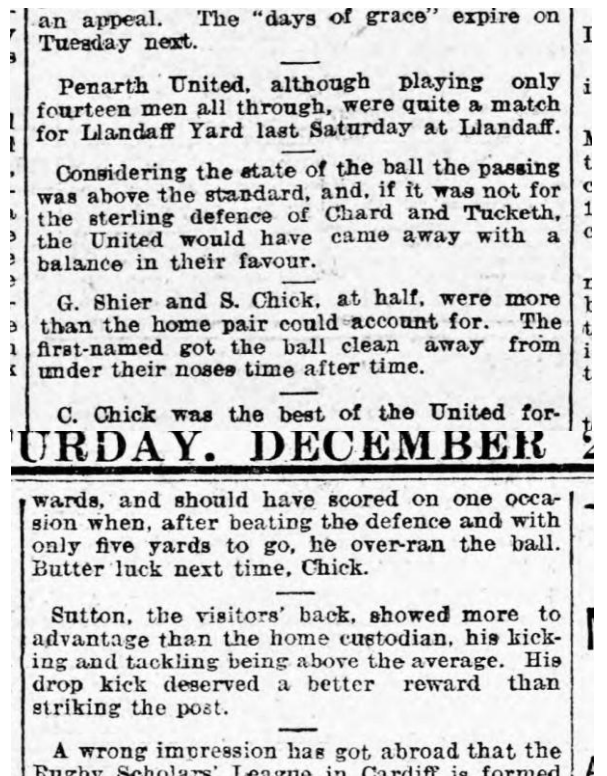


The result of this match was Llandaff Yard 1 Goal; Penarth, 1 Try.

On 19th December 1902, in the build up to Christmas, the club then pick this team for a local game against Tongwynlais, The Evening Express.



A brief account of the Penarth United match was then published in The Evening Express on 20th December 1902, greserving most praise to the Penarth club (right and below right)



Then on 24th December 1902, the club picked this team for the festival away game on Boxing Day against Whitchurch, The Evening Express, this match ended Whitchurch 1 Try; Llandaff Yard, nil.....

Pullen, F. Priest, and L. George.
 Whitchurch v. Llandaff Yard.—At Whitchurch, on Boxing Day. Kick-off at 11 a.m. Llandaff Yard: Back, A. Evans; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, P. Chard, G. Culverwell, and V. Davies; half-backs, C. Culverwell and C. Legge; forwards, T. Holtam, W. Holtam, E. Holtam, G. Pitcher, D. Leamore, W. Legge, T. Mahoney, and J. Pritchard.
 Grange Parish Church v. St. James's.—At Roath Park on Boxing Day: kick-off at 10.30. St. James's:

27th December 1902, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH.
 After a keen game Llandaff Yard succumbed to their nearest and dearest neighbours by three points on Friday. It was a gruelling game, the best team undoubtedly won, and there is great rejoicing amongst the villagers.

and if that wasn't enough over the Christmas period we are treated to this account from the previous Saturday's match away at Tongwynlais which drew a big crowd, The Evening express of 24th December 1902.

LLANDAFF YARD.
 A crowd of two or three hundred spectators assembled to witness the match between Tongwynlais and Llandaff Yard on the former's ground last Saturday. It was a stubbornly fought game, and innumerable chances on both sides were lost owing probably to the eagerness of the players in trying to score themselves, instead of combining one with another.
 The Llandaff Yard forwards, playing an excellent game, were distinctly superior to the Ton pack, but the backs did not seem to be able to utilise the chances which were given them.

It must have been another busy Christmas because the papers then gave this result on 29th December 1902, Gabalfa 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil

What a year that was, from start to finish, very demanding for players and demanding for the club 'officials'. Things are on the move, there's a new found confidence and something is in the air. A number of good players have returned, some have been recruited and together with all the stalwarts it's a strong set up.

But how did they get on against Whitchurch over Christmas?

1903

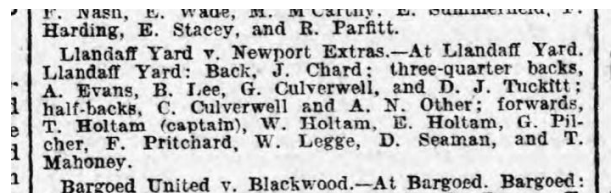
It's a long one, grab a cuppa, or something stronger, you might need it....

3rd January 1903, The Evening Express and fresh into the New Year we get an update on the big Christmas derby game with Johnny Williams making the difference.

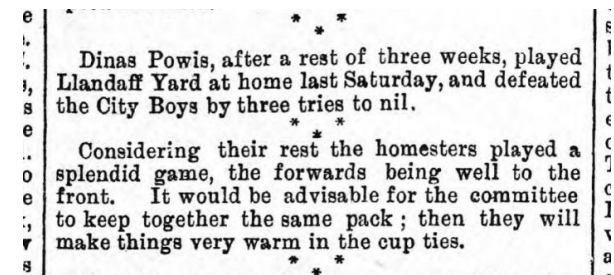


On 5th January 1903, the local scores gave Dinas Powis, 3 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil

6th February 1903, The Evening Express published this team sheet for the home game against Newport Extras

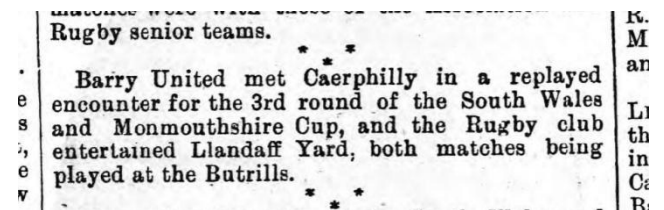


The boys were not at their best against Dinas Powis, or were they keeping things back for cup ties? 9th January 1903, The Barry Dock News.

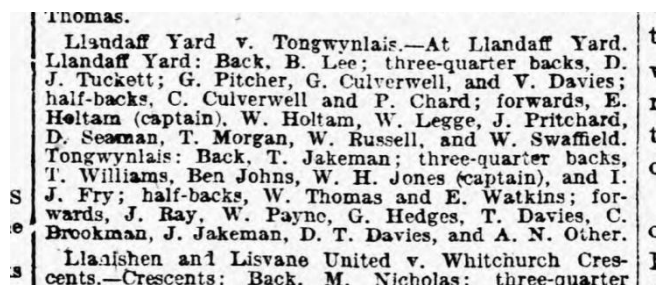


12th January 1903, local results showed: Barry 1 Goal and 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil

16th January 1903, The Barry Dock News, Llandaff Yard were well entertained by all accounts, the Barry Club at that time were a 'new club' having reformed that season but had 'gained some notable wins'.



A prelude to then entertaining Tongwynlais at home, 16th January 1903, The Evening Express, these are the teams that day....



A lot of disappointment, 24th January 1903, The Evening Express, one that would have had the treasurers in despair.

TONGWYNLAIS.

Tongwynlais were booked to play Llandaff Yard at Llandaff on Saturday last. Between these neighbouring teams exists the keenest rivalry, and much disappointment on both sides was caused when it was found that the match had to be abandoned owing to the frost. Probably another fixture may be arranged later on, as this match always draws a good gate.

Tom Williams seems to have settled comfortably in his position as wing three-quarter

At the same time while updating on Whitchurch, the paper then tantalises us with the thought that four clubs have Whitchurch as their home ground, where would they have been?

WHITCHURCH.

Whitchurch are endeavouring to arrange another game with Cardiff Reserves. The Cardiff committee will no doubt oblige, as this game brings the villagers their best game and gate (for a Saturday) of the season.

Llandaff Yard and Tongwynlais grounds are, strange to say, both situated in Whitchurch, and often as many as four Rugby teams are playing within the village.

On 30th January 1903 The Evening Express published this team selection for a home match against Bedwas

Cavazagh, T. Hanes, J. Appley, L. Imperato, and W. Yates.

Llandaff Yard v. Bedwas.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, P. Chard, G. Culverwell, and V. Davies; half-backs, W. Bence and C. Culverwell; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, W. Legge, D. Seaman, T. Morgan, and T. Mahoney.

Lisvane and Llanishen United v. St. Alban's Reserves.—Lisvane and Llanishen: Back, E. Gunstone; three-quarter backs, J. Davey, H. Gunstone, D. E.

On 7th February 1903 The Evening Express, Llandaff Yard applied to play in the Cardiff Shield competition normally open to the sides playing in the Cardiff and District Union league system.

points, and St. David's have at last "won" a match.

Llandaff Yard applied for affiliation, and desired to play in the shield competition. The city men were considered too strong for this division, and have been offered the opportunity of competing for the Mallett Cup. Llandaff Yard, if they accept, will make their opponents go all the way to win.

Wells United, a promising club, were accepted as members of the third division,

The team selection for a day out at Llantwit Major, 13th February 1903, The Evening Express

Thomas.

Llantwit Major v. Llandaff Yard.—At Llantwit Major. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckill, P. Chard, G. Culverwell, and T. Lansdowne; half-backs, W. Bence and C. Culverwell; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, C. Holtam, W. Legge, G. Pitcher, D. Leaman, J. Pritchard, and T. Morgan.

ASSOCIATION

Meanwhile on 14th February, the boys had earned a draw against Newport 3rds, The Evening Express

As usual, there are likely to be some big surprises in the Mallett Cup competition. Llandaff Yard drew with Newport Thirds. The Metal-street School team are smart at passing. Roath secured four League points on Saturday.

20th February 1903, The Evening Express and the team to face Penylan at home

Morgan, E. Payne, and S. Rees.
 Llandaff Yard v. Penylan.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckitt, G. Culverwell, T. Lansdowne, and A. N. Other; half-backs, P. Chard and C. Culverwell; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, E. Holtam, G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, D. Leafan, W. Legge, and T. Mahoney.
 Whitchurch Crescents v. Pontypridd Scarlets.—At Pontypridd. Whitchurch: Back, M. Nicholas; three-

On 23rd February 1903, the local results showed Llandaff Yard 1 (converted) goal; Penylan 1 (dropped) goal.

On 25th February 1903, The Evening Express we then get notice that the club's application to join the Cardiff and District Rugby Union had been accepted.

Cardiff and District Rugby Union.
 A largely-attended meeting of the above body was held at the Old Dolphin Hotel yesterday evening, under the presidency of Mr. A. H. Williams ("Spokes"). The appeal by Grange Star against the decision of the committee ordering them to play Mackintosh on neutral ground was dismissed. St. James and St. Teilo's, who had previously been ordered to compete for the shield, applied for permission to compete for the "A. H. Williams Cup" instead. This was granted.—Llandaff Yard and Barry Seconds were allowed to become members of the union.—A long discussion ensued over the application of Mackintosh and Romilly for transfers under the "exceptional" clause.—Mackintosh were granted permission to play Thomas, late of Treherbert, providing a transfer was produced by Friday next.—Brady was allowed to transfer to Treherbert at the expiration of one week from this date.
 London Welsh v Swansea

On 27th February 1903 The Evening Express showed the team selected to play against Chepstow at home.

Murphy, and Roberts.
 Llandaff Yard v. Chepstow St. Mary's.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckitt, G. Culverwell, W. Lansdowne, and S. O. Else; half-backs, C. Culverwell and P. Chard; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, E. Holtam, G. Pitcher, W. Legge, D. Scaman, T. Mahony, and J. Pritchard.
 Pengam v. Derri.—At Pengam. Pengam: Back, D. Evans; three-quarter backs, J. Hodges, R. Rees, D.

28th February 1903, The Evening Express, provides us with a good clue as to when the club joined the Cardiff Union (right and below)

The two clubs complained that this was a curious way of rewarding merit. By placing them in the second division they stood no chance of winning the shield, and, of course, had to sacrifice their chances for the cup.
 To remove the difficulty Llandaff Yard were accepted as new members of the Union, and given an opportunity of playing for the shield, whilst St. James's and St. Teilo's application to play for the A. H. Williams Cup was granted.
 This necessitated a fresh draw for the shield and the second cup. It resulted as follows:—
CARDIFF SHIELD.
FIRST ROUND.
 A.—Caerphilly United v. Llandaff Yard.
 B.—Penarth United, a bye.
 C.—Empire United, a bye.

Several interesting "friendly" matches took place on Saturday. The meeting of Cowbridge and Pontyclun, who are as keen rivals as Cardiff and Newport, ended, like the big match at Cardiff, in a pointless draw. Over at Barry, the smart Wells United defeated Barry Seconds by a try to nil. Llandaff Yard, who during the past week have become members of the District Union, caused surprise by defeating Penylan by a converted goal to a dropped goal. Pike scored for the citizens, and Culverwell goaled. Jones dropped Penylan's goal. It will be remembered that a week or so ago Penylan defeated Pontnewydd, the conquerors of Pill Harriers. Lisvane drew with Tongwynlais.
 Romilly visited Stroud, and, after a very

6th March 1903, The Evening Express gave a brief update on what went on at the recent meeting with the Cardiff and District Rugby Union, Llandaff Yard having been invited to enter the 2nd division of the league set-up.

(captain), J. Rees, and M. Jones.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION.
 The weekly meeting of this body was held at the Dolphin Hotel. Mr. A. H. Williams ("Spokes") presided over an attendance representing twenty-five clubs. Gabalfa were awarded two league points owing to the failure of St. David's to raise a team on Saturday last. St. David's claim against Pontnewynydd was again referred to the secretary. As the Cardiff Club had not notified their intention of giving medals with the Cardiff Football Club Cup this season that competition was abandoned. Llandaff Yard Football Club accepted the vacancy in the second division. An appli-

On 7th March 1903 The Evening Express published the leagues for the Union clearly showing Llandaff Yard as having played against 2nd Division opponents without being involved in the league set up (hence 'exempt').

FIRST DIVISION.
 Results of last Saturday's matches:—Roath one try, Mackintosh one penalty goal; Romilly one try, Cardiff Loudouns nil; St. David's forfeited points to Gabalfa.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Fr.	Ag.	Pts.
Roath	13	9	1	3	56	19	19
Canton	12	8	2	2	55	26	18
Mackintosh	11	8	0	3	67	29	17
Grange Stars	10	4	3	3	33	32	11
Romilly	9	3	2	4	12	23	10
Gabalfa	10	2	1	7	23	52	5
St. David's	10	1	2	7	6	23	4
Cardiff Loudouns	11	2	0	9	12	60	4

Dinas Powis and Barry exempt.

SECOND DIVISION.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Fr.	Ag.	Pts.
Empire United	6	4	2	0	20	8	10
St. Alban's	5	2	1	2	9	9	5
Penarth United	5	1	2	2	8	11	4
Caerphilly United	6	0	3	3	3	12	3

Llandaff Yard exempt.

THIRD DIVISION.
 Results of last Saturday's matches:—St. Alban's Reserves one goal, Grange Star Reserves one try; Cardiff Villa one try, Penarth Thistle's nil; Grange Parish Church nil, St. James's one goal.

At the same time we get this update (right).....

Llandaff Yard has accepted the vacancy in the shield competition. I hear they are a smart team, and will make their presence felt. To-day they meet Caerphilly United in the first round at the Castle town.

St. David's claim against Pontnewynydd

20th March 1903, The Evening Express published the teal selections for an away match against Empire United

Edwards, S. Bailey, R. John, and M. Jones.

Empire United v. Llandaff Yard.—At Sophia Gardens. Empire United: Back, R. Hines; three-quarter backs, J. Mills, E. Parry, D. Jones, and J. Stone; half-backs, D. Shanley and T. Deacy; forwards, W. Mills, O. Morgan, J. Miller, W. Tamlin, E. Windsor, I. Rees, S. Stone, J. M'Intyre, P. Deacy, and Cronin.

Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tinkitt, G. Culverwell, J. Chard, and T. Lansdowne; half-backs, C. Culverwell and P. Chard; forwards, T. Hollam (captain), W. Hollam, G. Pitcher, T. Mahoney, J. Pritchard, D. Leaman, W. Legge, and W. Swaffield.

Caerphilly United v. Pontypridd Scarlets.—At Pontypridd. Caerphilly United: Back, A. ...

In 'qualifying for the cup Llandaff Yard had to overcome a few obstacles and were more than up for the task, as this report testifies, Mach 28th 1903, The Evening Express

Llandaff Yard and Empire United met at the Sophia Gardens in ideal conditions to contest the right as to which team should enter the final round for the Cardiff Shield Competition.

It was noticed before the game commenced that the City lads were strong favourites. They were not badly off for "lung-wasters," for a large crowd had come from the Llandaff district.

Both clubs have had a very successful season. As is well known, the Empire team has won the second division of the league competition.

The visitors gave a splendid exhibition of football, and were quite too clever for the smart Empire team. A win of three tries to nil about represents the "Yard's" superiority.

Each of the three tries was cleverly gained. Charlie Culverwell scored the only try of the first half, after a very determined and successful effort. Receiving the ball from a scrum near the Empire's line, he beat quite five opponents by sheer strength, and crossed with what was regarded as a grand try by the onlookers.

The Empire lads were taken aback, and sat down on their haunches. Says one, "Well, I'm blowed, four of us were holding on to him,

The Empire lads were taken aback, and sat down on their haunches. Says one, "Well, I'm blowed, four of us were holding on to him, and then we could not stop him."

Till this reverse the Empire supporters were quite satisfied with themselves, considering that one of their half-backs was injured in the first few minutes of the game and retired. One great fault of the home backs was their fondness for tackling high and not low.

The Llandaff camp opened the second half with quiet confidence, and after some nice passing the issue was put beyond doubt by Chard scoring the second try.

Then another equally good try accrued. Tuckett, intercepting a pass near half-way, said good-bye to his pursuers until he crossed the rubicon.

The United towards the end put in a few reminders by way of a couple of forward rushes led by Mills and others. As of yore Hines played a good game at back, the scoring done being no fault of his. Empire were not fully represented.

The Llandaff Yard supporters are very keen on winning the shield by romping round Penarth United in the final. A healthy order! We shall see.

championship for the season.

The results of the second rounds, played last Saturday, were as follows:—

MALLETT CUP.
 Gabalfa, three points; St. David's, nil.
 Mackintosh, nil; Romilly, nil.
 Grange Stars, eleven points; Barry, nil.
 Canton, eight points; Loudouns, nil.

SHIELD.
 Penarth United, five points; St. Alban's, nil.
 Llandaff Yard, nine points; Empire, nil.

A. H. WILLIAMS CUP.
 St. James's, eight points; Grange Parish Church, three points.
 St. Alban's Reserves, a bye, owing to Barry Seconds being struck out.
 St. Teilo's v. Cardiff, unplayed.
 Grange Star Reserves, five points; Penarth Thistles, three points.

3rd April 1903 The Evening Express again published both teams for the local derby match against Whitchurch.

The score was: Whitchurch, 1 Try; Llandaff Yard, nil.

Wynne, T. Ferry, G. Gustace, and R. Morgan.
 Llandaff Yard v. Whitchurch.—These old rivals meet for the third and last time this season at Whitchurch. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, G. Culverwell, P. Chard, and W. Lansdowne; half-backs, C. Culverwell and W. Bence; forwards, W. Holtam, G. Pitcher, J. Pritchard, T. Mahony, W. Legge, D. Seaman, W. Swaffield, and E. Holtam. Whitchurch: Back, F. Boothby; three-quarter backs, T. L. Williams, W. G. Jones, C. Hill, and W. Llewellyn; half-backs, E. E. Jenkins and E. Power; forwards, J. Rugman (captain), W. Salman, D. Pike, B. Wiles, J. Evans, F. Richards, W. Jenkins, and B. Williams.

On 4th April 1903 The Evening Express Sports Columnist answers readers' questions responding to one complainant about the Cardiff Shield competition.

season at Leicester. This is the first fixture between the countries on that ground.
 C. R. Stephens.—Thanks.
 "Growler."—You are wrong in complaining of the committee's action in allowing Llandaff Yard to enter for the shield. The permission was granted by a general meeting of the Union.

Meanwhile one local pundit weighs in with his match forecasts

Dear "Spokes,"—Right again! I tipped the Macks to do the needful to Romilly, and St. Teilo's to give the Cardiff Villa their quietus. Still stick to my prophecy that the Macks and Grange will compete in the final for the Mallett, that Llandaff Yard will win the shield, and tht St. James's and St. Teilo's will decide the A. H. Williams' Cup.
 YOUNG JUDGE.

11th April 1903, The Evening Express and a great deal of column space was dedicated to Llandaff Yard, this one in defence of the club (right).

"Dear 'Spokes,'—With regard to 'Fairplay's' letter in your last Saturday's notes, it certainly sounds very nice that a team, by paying 5s., can secure shield, medals, &c. I hope, however, he has not made Llandaff Yard players think that the shield is bound to come to them. Naturally, he is aggrieved that the medals have slipped away from his team; but may I be allowed to state a few facts regarding Llandaff Yard obtaining them so cheaply? They have played four matches against Mallett Cup teams this season, and in each case have received a good trouncing. They naturally thought they were on a level with the Second Division teams, and applied for admission to compete in the Shield Competition. Admission was in the first instance refused, but afterwards granted, although Llandaff Yard on their part had let the matter drop. Empire United were exempted from the first round of the Shield, but Llandaff Yard had to go to Caerphilly, and it was only in the last few minutes of the game they ran out winners by three points. In the second round they had to play Empire United on the latter's ground, and quite unexpectedly they found this match a far easier one than the Caerphilly game. Llandaff Yard have to play more matches than anyone else, and each of them away from home. It, therefore, surely cannot be said that the medals are a gift to them. They recognise Penarth United as being quite their equals, and when these teams meet I, for one, am looking forward to a tough game.—Your truly, CITY."

The semi-finals of the Welsh Union Challenge

(Below) match result of the same day and optimism for the Whitchurch club's fortunes.

LLANDAFF YARD V. LLANTWIT MAJOR.			
Llantwit Major	1	0
Llandaff Yard	0	1
GRANGE STARS SECONDS V. PENARTH			

WHITCHURCH
 As was expected, Whitchurch proved too good for Llandaff Yard, and, although they won by three points only, they always had the game well in hand. It was thought that the villagers would have a strong pull forward, and this proved to be the case, but had the eight given their backs more chances their superiority in that department also would have been more apparent.
 For next season the villagers will have the best fixture list for many years. Cardiff Seconds, Newport Seconds, and Swansea Seconds have already arranged games with the Whitchurch men, and it only requires the junior talent to rally around the old club to make next season the best ever experienced by the club.

On tour over Easter (1903) and Llandaff Yard put in some decent performances...18th April 1903, The Evening Express

Llandaff Yard, who are the favourites for the shield, almost secured Berkeley and Sharpness three seasons' ground record. A game in which the visitors had slightly the best of matters ended in a pointless draw. The Cardiff district team showed splendid defensive play, C. Culverwell at half being very prominent.

Roath tackled Wellington All Saints' as "Easter fare," and came off best. The weather

24th April 1903, The Evening Express and the team selections announced for the big cup final at The Arms Park, pay at the gate, Llandaff Yard keeping their cards close to the chest on two key positions S. O. Else (Someone Else) and A. N. Other (Another)

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION. THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the Cardiff Arms Park to-morrow afternoon the annual championships of the Cardiff and District Rugby Union will be held. Two matches will take place. The first is the final for the Shield, between Llandaff Yard and Penarth United, the kick-off being timed for 2.45. The final for the Mallett Cup, between Mackintosh and Grange Stars, will follow at four o'clock. Both matches are certain to be keen and close. The contest between Grange and Mackintosh is likely to be a memorable one in many ways, and a record cup-tie crowd for the Cardiff Arms Park is anticipated. The season tickets of the Cardiff Football Club will not be available for admission, the union deciding, with the consent of the Cardiff Football Club, that "all shall pay." A concession has been made, however, to Cardiff elementary schoolboys, and they will be admitted for one penny each. Mr. J. S. Philp will referee in the Shield match, and very probably Mr. D. H. Bowen, of Llanelli, in the final for the Mallett Cup. A good and exciting afternoon's football is certain.

Llandaff Yard v. Penarth United.—At Cardiff Arms Park. Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, I. J. Tuckitt, G. Culverwell, A. N. Other, and W. Lansdowne; half-backs, C. Culverwell and S. O. Else; forwards, T. Holtam (captain), W. Holtam, E. Holtam, T. Mahoney, J. Pritchard, W. Swaffield, W. Legge, and D. Seaman.

Mr. H. C. Summerfield's Fifteen v. Tondy Thistles.—At Roath Park. H. Summerfield's Fifteen: Back, W. Hirons; three-quarter backs, Bradley, H. C. Summerfield, T. Hicks, and A. Probert; half-backs, H. Webb and J. Marsh; forwards, E. Summerfield, H. Howells, W. M'Cormack, S. Miller, F. Powell, R. Parfitt, Clouter, and T. Lewis.

FIRST DIVISION.					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points L'ge.
Mackintosh	13	10	1	2	67 -29 -21
Canton	13	8	3	2	55 -26 -19
Roath	13	9	1	3	58 -19 -19
Grange Star	11	4	4	3	33 -32 -12
Romilly	9	3	2	4	12 -23 -10
Gabalfa	10	2	1	7	23 -52 -5
St. David's	11	1	2	8	6 -23 -4
Loudoun	12	2	0	9	12 -60 -4

Barry and Dinas Powis exempt.

SECOND DIVISION.					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points L'ge.
Empire United	6	4	2	0	20 -8 -10
Penarth United	6	2	2	2	13 -11 -6
St. Alban's	6	2	1	3	9 -14 -4
Caerphilly Utd.	6	0	3	3	3 -12 -3

Llandaff Yard exempt.

THIRD DIVISION.					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points L'ge.
St. Teilo's	12	8	3	1	55 -12 -19
St. James's	12	9	0	3	38 -29 -18
St. Alban's Res.	13	8	2	3	58 -33 -18
Cardiff Villa	12	7	0	5	48 -22 -14
Penarth Thistle	12	5	3	4	41 -23 -13
Cardiff Nomads	14	5	1	8	40 -26 -11
Grange Star Res	11	1	2	8	17 -46 -4
Grange P. Ch.	12	1	1	10	6 -83 -3

Wells United exempt.

Mr. J. C. Cooper, of Leicester, who recently

(Left) the latest District league tables showing Llandaff Yard 'exempt' 25th April 1903, The Evening Express

Then the big day arrives, 25th April 1903, The Evening Express.....Peter and John (Jack) Chard in the team.....

PIRE ? EVENIN

**Mallett Cup Finals.
GREAT GAMES AT CARDIFF
TO-DAY.**

Llandaff Yard v. Penarth United

With the sun smiling in all its brilliance this afternoon, it was not surprising to find the gate for the Mallett finals suffering slightly, but the good number present were highly enthusiastic, and each team came in surrounded by supporters. "Stable information" was responsible for the belief that the shield for this season would find a home at Llandaff, yet the seaside "joint" were none the less determined for that bit of optimism.

Teams:—

Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, I. J. Tuckitt, G. Culverwell, S. Chard, and W. Lansdowne; half-backs, C. Culverwell and S. O. Else; forwards, T. Holtham (captain), W. Holtham, E. Holtham, T. Mahoney, J. Pritchard, W. Swaffield, W. Legge, and D. Seaman.

Penarth United: Back, C. Sutton; three-quarter backs, W. Jewell (captain), G. Shier, E. Best, and T. Shier; half-backs, S. Chick and G. Porter; forwards, C. Chick, H. Hill, J. Norman, G. Best, F. Blackmore, W. Roberts, T. Wallace, and J. Trought.

Feferee, Mr. J. S. Philp.

Llandaff, having won the toss, C. Chick opened the game, the reply finding touch. From there close dribbling took play to the Penarth line, and two minors in succession

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5.10-
5.15-
5.16-
5.17-
5.19-
5.21-
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Lansdowne fielded in daring fashion, and put in a useful high kick. A bunch of Llandaff men followed up well, and when it seemed an "odds on" chance for a score P. Chick cut across and brought off a sensational tackle. Then J. Chard almost dropped a second goal. He worked into position nicely, and the shot just skimmed the post. Penarth were full of life on dropping out, for after Tuckitt had put in a big kick Sutton made good ground by finding touch grandly. Suddenly, however, Tuckett intercepted a pass, and running with rare speed outpaced all and gained a sensational try behind the posts. Peter Chard placed the extras. Subsequent play became more of a scrambling nature, and George Shier and Chick just averted another score, the latter receiving a knock-out in his attempt.

	G.	T.	M.
Llandaff Yard	*2	0	4
Penarth United	0	0	0

*Dropped goal.

There was little delay in resuming, and Penarth, with the sun at their backs, were now expected to do better. They did not start too well, however, as a penalty was given against them quite early, and Peter Chard made a nice shot for goal. Tom Shier then brought relief with a long and tricky run, and for a full minute play was keenly exciting. Sutton repelled one attack in great style, and after a futile drop at goal by the Llandaff back the Penarth custodian fielded, and running hard nailed the fielder. Directly after a beautiful round of passing by the Penarth backs put T. Shier over with a corner try, which Jewell just failed to convert. C. Chick fielded the drop-out, and nicely placed to touch on the Llandaff line. When the ball

backs put T. Shier over with a corner try, which Jewell just failed to convert. C. Chick fielded the drop-out, and nicely placed to touch on the Llandaff line. When the ball came out a penalty for Penarth was very narrowly missed by Sutton, but Penarth continued to force the pace, Tuckett saving once with Chick and Wallace right on him. A bit of hard scrimmaging followed close in, and G. Best charged a kick and scored, the excitement being raised to fever pitch as Jewell augmented and reduced the difference to a single point. The drop-out secured no relief, as Penarth, playing with big hearts, kept up high pressure. A minor and a penalty kick, both for Penarth, kept the interest up, and from a mark by T. Shier still another minor was registered. Penarth had the hardest of hard lines immediately after, for over-anxiety prevented T. Shier fielding and scoring. For the first time in this half Penarth was then forced out, and the whistle shortly after blew time.

	G.	T.	M.
Llandaff Yard	*2	0	4
Penarth United	1	1	3

*Dropped.

COMMENTS.

"Stable confidence" was once again well founded, but this time by the narrowest of margins. The luck went to the victors, and Penarth had the sympathy of the majority present. All the players in both teams worked hard for a victory, and it is unfair to individualise. It will, however, be gracefully and readily conceded by even the most enthusiastic of Llandaff's supporters that the Seaside were decidedly the better team in the second half, and strove hard in the opening minutes against one and tried to keep the



From there close dribbling took play to the Penarth line, and two minors in succession were conceded. Stiff scrimmaging for a minutes and then Culverwell broke off and slung out the ball to Lansdowne who got in a kick under most difficult circumstances. The third minor was then conceded. So far the wind had greatly bothered both sides, but Penarth improved their position with short kicks, and Tuckett and S. Chard kicked and ran back. Penarth were soon up again, though only for a moment, as the Llandaff backs with good range-finding kicks put their side on the offensive, and after Sutton had been laid out temporarily a scrimmage was formed near the Penarth posts. The ball came out to C. Culverwell and in a twinkling he had dropped a goal. Ineffectual attempts at re-starting were made, the ball being carried to touch by the high wind, and then E. Best made a mark from which his side greatly profited, as they galloped right up to the Llandaff line, where a knock-on alone robbed the Seaside of a score. Encouraging cheers were given as Penarth continued to hold a slight advantage, when suddenly Lansdowne fielded in daring fashion, and put in a useful high kick. A bunch of Llandaff

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What a day! What a match!....and finally a bit of recognition25th April 1903 The Evening Express (continued from previous page)

Penarth United 1 1 3
 *Dropped.
COMMENTS.
 "Stable confidence" was once again well founded, but this time by the narrowest of margins. The luck went to the victors, and Penarth had the sympathy of the majority present. All the players in both teams worked hard for a victory, and it is unfair to individualise. It will, however, be gracefully and readily conceded by even the most enthusiastic of Llandaff's supporters that the Seaside were decidedly the better team in the second half, and strove hard in the opening moiety against sun and wind to keep the score down. As for Llandaff, they are a very clever lot, and despite a certain amount of uncalculated-for prejudice against them, are to be congratulated on their achievement.

Mackintosh v. Grange Stars.

One for the Cardiff and District Union enthusiasts, this was a report on 7th May 1903 in The Evening Express giving us an account of the proceedings on their presentation night.

Here's an interesting summary (below) of the season, something we've not seen before, 9th May 1903, The Evening Express and a decent record it was too, well worth framing....

LLANDAFF YARD.

Hereunder we give the season's record of the Llandaff Yard Club. The club has played 29 matches, of which they have won thirteen, lost twelve, and drawn four. The following is the record:—

Date.	Opponents.	Where played.	Result.
1902.			
Sept. 29.	Gabalva	Away	Lost.
27.	Cowbridge	Home	Won.
Oct. 4.	Llanharran	Home	Lost.
11.	Penarth Reserves	Home	Won.
18.	Chepstow St. Mary's	Away	Lost.
25.	Keatiff Hill	Home	Won.
Nov. 1.	Llanharran	Away	Won.
8.	Penylan	Home	Won.
15.	Penarth United	Away	Won.
22.	Llantrisant	Home	Won.
29.	Whitechurch	Home	Drn.
Dec. 6.	Penarth Reserves	Away	Aband'd.
13.	Penarth United	Home	Drn.
20.	Tongwynlais	Away	Won.
26.	Whitechurch	Away	Lost.
27.	Gabalva	Home	Won.
1903.			
Jan. 3.	Dynas Powis	Away	Lost.
10.	Barry	Away	Lost.
17.	Tongwynlais	Home	Aband'd.
24.	Penarth United	Away	Not plyd.
31.	Bedwas	Home	Lost.
Feb. 7.	Newport Extras	Home	Drn.
14.	Llantwit Major	Away	Lost.
21.	Penylan	Home	Won.
28.	Chepstow St. Mary's	Home	Won.
Mar. 7.	Caerphilly United	Away	Won.
21.	Empire United	Away	Won.
28.	Cowbridge	Away	Won.
April 4.	Whitechurch	Away	Lost.
10.	Llantwit Major	Home	Lost.
11.	Berkeley and Sharpness	Away	Drn.
13.	Cinderford	Away	Lost.
20.	Barry	Home	Not plyd.
25.	Penarth United	Away	Won.

FOOTBALL.

Cardiff and District Rugby Union
Promise of a 50-Guinea Challenge Shield.

The annual presentation of trophies and medals won by the various clubs during the past season took place at the Dolphin Hotel, Cardiff, last evening. Councillor R. Hughes presided over a crowded attendance.

Mr. A. H. Williams ("Spokes"), in a resume of the season's work of the union, congratulated all upon having had in every way a record season. At the present time the union was stronger financially and in numbers than had been the case at any previous time in its history. The competitions had been wonderfully close and interesting.

Councillor Hughes, in making the presentations, expressed his pleasure at the continued success of the local governing body, and, amidst loud applause, announced that next year the Union would probably be in possession of a Dewar shield worth 50 guineas, in addition to a couple of new valuable cups. Presentations of trophies and medals were made to the following winning clubs:—A. H. Williams, cup and medals, St. Teilo's; Cardiff shield and medals, Llandaff Yard; Mallett cup and medals, Grange Stars; first league medals, Mackintosh; second league medals, Empire United.

One competition—the third league—has not yet ended owing to St. James's and St. Teilo's being equal in points. The deciding match takes place on Saturday, and the medals will be presented next Tuesday. A vote of thanks, proposed by "Spokes," and seconded by Mr. C. R. Crawley, to the chairman, was carried with acclamation.

25th July 1903 The Evening Express , although relating to Whitchurch we see that Llandaff Yard are mentioned as having eligibility for the 1st Division of the Cardiff and District Union league set up.

WHITCHURCH

To-day the Penarth Second eleven visit Whitchurch, and as it was this team that gave the Villagers their first defeat of the season, a keen and interesting game may be expected. On the home side, Bowden and Foxall are not available, and as Whitchurch were but weakly represented at Penarth in the initial encounter, it is unfortunate that the teams cannot to-day meet on level terms.

It seems strange that a place like Bridgend is unable to maintain a Saturday cricket team. Such, however, is the case. Whitchurch were very disappointed to receive a communication at the eleventh hour, that the Bridgend Saturday team had been disbanded, thus depriving them of a game last week. Teams crying off in this way might at least be considerate and inform their opponents before arrangements are made.

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.

22nd August 1903 The Evening Express, a new season dawns and with an entirely new approach to the rugby calendar and a governing body to answer to.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT RUGBY UNION

The sub-committee appointed at the last annual meeting of the local Rugby Union has classified the affiliated clubs as follow for the coming season:—

Division I.—Mackintosh (last season's winners of the first division), Romilly, Roath, Gabalfa, Canton, Llandaff Yard (winners of the Cardiff Shield), and Dinas Powis.

Division II.—Penarth United, St. Alban's (late St. Alban's Reserves), Gabalfa Seconds (late St. Teilo's, winners of the A. H. Williams Cup), Caerphilly United, Grange Barbarians, Barry United, and St. James's (winners of the third division league last season).

Division III.—St. Mary's Juniors (late Cardiff Villa), Well's United, Whitchurch Crescents, St. Saviour's, St. Barnabas (Grange), and Penarth Thistles.

The fourth division is still open. The final selection of clubs will probably be made at an early date. Among the clubs already entered are Cardiff Etonians, Clive Thistles, Canton Rovers, St. James Seconds, Whitchurch Nomads, Splott United, and Splott Crusaders. The age limit for the fourth division is still undecided. Of the clubs entered four wish an eighteen years' limit and three a nineteen years' limit. This, of course, leaves the eighteen years supporters in a majority of one, but, as several other clubs are likely to enter, this majority may be considerably altered.

To begin season 1903 - 04 (after a very successful 1902 - 03) we are treated to a rare fixture schedule so that you can plan your season and all your away trips:

5th September 1903, The Evening Express

LLANDAFF YARD.	
Llandaff Yard were successful in winning the shield diast season, but this season, by being put up in the snior division, the club has one of the strongest fixture lists they have ever had. By selecting such a capable player to skipper the team as W. Holtam they have done well, and under his guidance they will do their best to make as good a show as possible.	
1903.	
Sept.	12.—Mr. P. Chard's TeamHome.
"	19.—PenylanHome.
"	26.—Penarth ReservesAway.
Oct.	6.—TongwynlaisHome.
"	14.—Gabalfa (L)Home.
"	17.—WhitchurchAway.
"	24.—Mackintosh (L)Away.
"	31.—Dinas Powis (L)Home.
Nov.	7.—Canton (L)Home.
"	14.—Roath (L)Home.
"	21.—TongwynlaisAway.
"	28.—WhitchurchHome.
Dec.	5.—Grange Stars (L)Away.
"	12.—Penarth ReservesHome.
"	19.—Romilly (L)Away.
"	26.—WhitchurchAway.
1904.	
Jan.	2.—Romilly (L)Home.
"	9.—Gabalfa (L)Away.
"	16.—Mackintosh (L)Home.
"	23.—PenylanHome.
"	30.—Newport ExtrasHome.
Feb.	6.—Roath (L)Away.
"	13.—Canton (L)Away.
"	20.—Grange Stars (L)Home.
"	27.—Dinas Powis (L)Away.
Mar.	5.—WhitchurchHome.
"	19.—Cup matches.
"	26.—Ditto.
Apr.	4.—CinderfordAway.

Having tasted the sweet smell of success the club are almost compelled to join the Cardiff and District Union league set up, 12th September 1903, The Evening Express

Notice also that within the divisions are two other Whitchurch teams, the Crescents and the Nomads.

The clubs taking part in the local leagues are, with the exception of a couple of vacancies in the fourth division, now complete. The amended allocation of the organisations is as follows:—First Division: Canton, Roath, Mackintosh, Romilly, Llandaff Yard, Grange Star, Gabalfa, and St. Agnes. Second Division: Penarth United, St. Alban's, Caerphilly United, Cardiff Barbarians, Barry United, St. James's, Canton Reserves, and St. Tello's. Third Division: St. Mary's, Penarth Thistles, Wells United, Whitchurch Crescents, St. Saviour's, and St. Barnabas. Fourth Division: Splott Crusaders, Clive Thistles, Penarth Thistles, Etonians, St. Peter's, Hibernian Boys, St. James's Reserves, Whitchurch Nomads, St. Alban's Reserves, and Canton Bovers.

11th September 1903, The Evening Express and the first scheduled fixture of the season, an 'exhibition' game within the club and clearly Peter Chard was held in high esteem, a player that still represented the club, here picking his mates for his own team.

Llandaff Yard v. Mr. P. Chard's Team.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, D. Seaman; three-quarter backs, W. Hewitt, W. Jenkins, A. Jenkins, and W. Lansdown; half-backs, Collis and Miles; forwards, W. Holtam (captain), T. Holtam, E. Holtam, J. Pritchard, W. Legge, T. Mahoney, W. Swaffield, and another. Kick-off at four o'clock.

St. Agnes v. Bedwas.—At Bedwas. St. Agnes: Back,

On 18th September 1903, The Evening Express, the team selection for a home match against Penylan

A. Durnell, E. Robbins, F. Mead, and E. Stephens.

Llandaff Yard v. Penylan.—At Llandaff Yard. Llandaff Yard: Back, D. Seaman; three-quarter backs, D. J. Tuckett, A. Jenkins, W. Jenkins, and W. Lansdown; half-backs, F. Lewis and another; forwards (selected from), W. Holtam; J. Pritchard, W. Legge, W. Swaffield, T. Swaffield, W. Payne, A. Leaves, A. Chapple, and H. Evans.

Etonians v. Hibernian Boys.—At Jubilee Park. Etonians: Back. Snackman: three-quarter backs, G. H.

Having shaken up the local rugby scene there are now high expectations, 19th September 1903, The Evening Express.

Field. F. Stockden, a player of undoubted merit at centre three-quarter, is the captain, and Mr. Blake will again wield the pen.

Llandaff Yard only took part in the union's competition late last season. They then proved their quality by winning the Cardiff Shield. The result is that this season they figure in the first division of the league, and have the best fixture list in their history. W. Holtam, a sturdy forward of the right stamp, has been chosen as captain. Mr. Godsall is the popular hon. secretary.

St. Agnes also appears in the first division

The Evening Express on 26th September 1903 didn't mince their words.

surprise will be in store for the Grange supporters.

Penylan started the season locally—for they had played a guarantee match the previous week—on Saturday last by waltzing round Llandaff Yard by three tries to nil. Last season's Cardiff Shield winners will have to improve, or their chances in the League won't be great.

A pleasant game was that between Pencoed and Bridgend White Stars. Both sides are

7th November 1903, The Evening Express published a brief account of the clubs adventure into league games in the 1st Division but it's not going well.

LLANDAFF YARD.

Last Saturday Llandaff Yard had their first touch of league football this season. Secretary Godsall has had many difficulties to contend with in getting together a representative side this season, but the team that played last Saturday showed that they were quite capable of holding their own with the first division teams. St. Agnes were extremely lucky to win by the narrow margin of one point, as the City players had the better of the game right through, and Tuckett had the hardest of lines in slipping on the wet turf when unopposed a few yards from the line.

FINISHED

On 14th November 1903, it was a case of hard luck, but no cigar, The Evening Express

a name for themselves before they were much older.

It's a long lane without a turning, so runs an old proverb, and Llandaff Yard are bound to find that turning if they retain the form shown by them in their match with Canton on Saturday last.

The match was played on the City boys' ground, and so evenly was it contested that the result hung in the balance right bang up to the final toot of the whistle.

On 16th November 1903 the local results showed: Roath, 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil..... the wheels have come off.

18th November 1903, The Evening Express and now it was not getting the rub of the green with player registration and transfers

rapt attention by his young audience.

Cardiff District Union

The weekly meeting of the Cardiff District Union was held on Tuesday evening at the Old Dolphin Hotel, Mr. A. H. Williams ("Spokes") presiding.—In connection with the appeal made by the Penarth Thistles against St. Mary's playing three players over age, the appeal was dismissed, the ages being proved to be correct. The appeal of St. Mary's against St. Saviour's for playing men over age was again adjourned. The resolution in connection with T. Lansdowne, of Llandaff Yard, was rescinded, and he was allowed to play for Victoria United. It was decided that in future all clubs losing appeals on the question of age should pay for all doubtful certificates. Transfers were granted provisionally to Frisk to play for Grange-town from Penarth and Penylan; T. Timothy from St. Teilo's to Mackintosh; J. Johns from St. Mary's to St. Saviour's; A. Middleton from St. Saviour's to Wells United, and W. Moss from St. Saviour's to Canton Reserves.

Swansea v. Leicester

21st November 1903, The Evening Express and it's all gone 'pear shaped'

Cardiff League Table.

DIVISION I.
Results of last Saturday's games:—Canton one try. Mackintosh one penalty goal; Roath v. Llandaff Yard does not count as a league result owing to the absence of the referee; Grange Stars one goal one try, St. Agnes' one try.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points For	L'ge For Ag't Pts.
Roath	3	1	2	0	5	0 4
Mackintosh	4	1	2	1	6	15 4
Canton	3	1	2	0	6	3 4
Grange Stars	4	2	0	2	21	16 4
St. Agnes	3	1	1	1	10	14 3
Romilly	2	1	1	0	5	0 3
Llandaff Yard	3	0	0	3	6	10 0

DIVISION II.
St. Teilo's nil, Roath Hornets nil; Barbarians v. Victoria United was postponed.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points For	L'ge For Ag't Pts.
Roath Hornets	4	3	1	0	21	5 7
St. Teilo's	4	3	1	0	17	5 7
Penarth United	3	3	0	0	23	0 6
Barbarians	3	1	0	2	3	14 2
Canton Reserves	5	1	0	4	11	23 2
Victoria United	2	0	0	2	3	12 0
Roath United	1	0	0	1	2	0 0

The local derby looms again, 28th November 1903, The Evening Express

For the record, the game ended nil, nil.

Cardiff League games.
Canton has a Christmas tour in Devon. Romilly tour in Somersetshire at Yuletide.
Llandaff Yard meet their keenest rivals, Whitechurch, to-day.
Whitechurch won the previous struggle.
Only one prophecy from "Young Judge" this season.

and a little reminder to all those that participate in the sport of their choice, we'd be lost without them.....

of cost.
Referees are only mortal, and it is, therefore, not surprising that a few of them last Saturday could not withstand the attractions of a Cardiff v. Newport match, and were, therefore, absent from the matches they were appointed to whistle in.
Canton v. Grange Stars, for this reason,

Even the District Union realised the difficulties over 120 years ago, but who would do it for the price of a bus ticket?

of cost. —
 Referees are only mortal, and it is, therefore, not surprising that a few of them last Saturday could not withstand the attractions of a Cardiff v. Newport match, and were, therefore, absent from the matches they were appointed to whistle in.
 Canton v. Grange Stars, for this reason.

Well this speaks volumes, having beaten all before them the previous season, there's little appetite for district league games. 5th December 1903, The Evening Express

Cardiff League Ladder.
 DIVISION I

	P.	W.	D.	J.	F.	A.	Pts.
Roath	3	1	2	0	5	0	4
Mackintosh	4	1	2	1	6	16	4
Canton	3	1	2	0	6	3	4
Grange Stars	4	2	0	2	21	16	4
St. Agnes	3	1	1	1	10	14	3
Romilly	2	1	1	0	5	0	3
Llandaff Yard	3	0	0	3	6	18	0

Old Monktonians and Dinas Powis exempt.

Then, the club fell foul of the Union, 9th December 1903, The Evening Express, before entering the league, in previous seasons, Grange had been a regular match in the Llandaff Yard fixture schedule

FOOTBALL.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT UNION.

The weekly meeting of the Cardiff and District Union was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. A. H. Williams ("Spokes") presiding.—A mutual arrangement was effected in the appeal of Canton Reserves against Victoria United, whereby the clubs decided to play on Monday for four league points.

Grange Stars were awarded two points owing to the failure of Llandaff Yard to meet them last Saturday. Roath Hornets were also given league points owing to St. Teilo's failing to start the game in time to be a league match.

Transfers were granted to T. Thomas, from Wells United to St. Mary's; T. Jakeman, from St. Saviours to Whitchurch Crescents; and the application of Williams, of Grange Stars, for a transfer to Tredegar was refused.

FUNERAL OF A BARGOED PLAYER

Although you may have detected as much, there doesn't seem to be much appetite for playing in a league, but now there are consequences, 19th December 1903, The Evening Express.....and it doesn't go down well (right and below)

It rumbles on.... 19th December 1903, The Evening Express.....time to reflect (right and below)

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT UNION.
 The weekly meeting of the Cardiff and District Union was held at the Old Dolphin Hotel on Tuesday evening, Mr. A. H. Williams ("Spokes") in the chair. A Llandaff Yard hon. secretary attended regarding the claim made by the Union against his club for the expenses of the three League teams which had played at Llandaff Yard. His statement being at variance with that supplied by another representative of the same club, the committee decided to give the Llandaff Yard club another week to consider the matter. St. Mary's were awarded the League points for the unplayed match between them and Whitchurch Crescents. The following transfers were granted:—T. Shears, from Barry United to Penarth United; S. Bailey, Roath to Mackintosh; and W. Reardon, St. Mary's to St. Saviour's.

...and on....26th December 1903, The Evening Express. Even Christmas didn't stop the acrimony and Whitchurch Crescents also came in for it (right).

The league table shown below, in the same paper, tells all.

Cardiff and District League Ladder.

DIVISION I.
 Result of last Saturday's match:—Roath, nil; Mackintosh, nil. Romilly v. Llandaff Yard was cancelled.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points		Lge Pts.
					F.	A.	
Grange Stars	5	3	0	2	21	16	6
Canton	4	2	2	0	12	3	6
Roath	4	1	3	0	5	0	5
Mackintosh	5	1	3	1	6	16	5
St. Agnes	4	1	1	2	10	20	3
Romilly	2	1	1	0	5	0	3
Llandaff Yard	4	0	0	4	6	10	0

DIVISION II.
 St. Tello's v. Victoria United played as a

Evidently, from the statement of the Llandaff Yard representative who attended the meeting, the citizens have had no intention of fulfilling their "away" league matches. The Union has decided to call upon the Llandaff team to defray the expenses of the three Cardiff League clubs who in good faith played at Llandaff Yard. These expenses amount to a total of three guineas.

The Old Hibernian Boys kept their lead at the head of the fourth division by beating

the club behind the scrumage.

Last season Llandaff Yard entered the second league at the last moment, and were strong enough to win the shield and medals. Surely, good sportsmanship demanded that they should honourably fulfil this season's league fixtures which were arranged by their officials. The Cardiff Union are likely to report Llandaff Yard to the Welsh Football Union unless some satisfaction is forthcoming at the next meeting.

Mr. W. F. Dowle, who will be remembered

Secretary Godsall, of Llandaff Yard, attended over the claim made by the Union against his club for the expenses of Roath, Canton, and St. Agnes', the three Cardiff League clubs who have visited the citizens.

Unfortunately, Mr. Godsall's evidence did not agree with that tendered a previous week by a representative from his club.

A week has been given the club to further consider the matter. It should, however, be remembered that "friendly" matches do not fulfil the engagement voluntarily entered into to play league contests. Moreover, playing the suggested friendlies does not bring any solace to the Cardiff clubs disappointed by the Yardites.

The appeal held over from the previous week of St. Mary's against Whitchurch Crescents was decided in favour of St. Mary's by a majority of the committee. Referee D. Davies stated that Whitchurch only commenced to change for the match when he arrived, at 3.35 p.m. Had they been ready to field, the game could have been immediately started.

T. Shiers, of Barry United, was granted permission once more to change to Penarth

Well what a year that was and it's one that's still talked about today, There are many good photographs that lie in the store room at Llandaff North Rugby Club and it is hoped that more can be made of them, at the very least they should be copied and preserved as a lasting memory and a heritage of rugby in the area. This is one taken of the Llandaff Yard Shield winning team with the Shield proudly on display, the names of those in the photograph are shown on the photo in the possession of Llandaff North RFC...



1904

Unfortunately, things were never the same again.....

2nd January 1904, The Evening Express, how quickly things can change.....

interest in the game.

Cardiff League Ladder.

(Owing to the collapse of the Llandaff Yard F.C., league points have been deducted.)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	for.	ag.	pts.
DIVISION I.							
Roath	4	1	3	0	5	0	5
Grange Star	4	2	0	2	21	16	4
Canton	3	1	2	0	12	3	4
Mackintosh	4	0	3	1	6	16	3
Romilly	2	1	1	0	5	0	3
St. Agnes	3	0	1	3	10	20	1
Old Monktonians and Dinas Powis exempt.							
DIVISION II.							
Penarth United	5	5	0	0	56	0	10
Roath Hornets	5	4	1	0	21	3	9
St. Tello's	6	3	1	2	20	9	7
Canton Reserves	6	2	0	4	11	26	4
Barbarians	6	1	0	5	3	14	2
Barry United	5	1	0	4	7	53	2
Victoria United	3	1	0	2	3	16	2
DIVISION III.							
Penarth Thistle	6	4	1	1	43	10	9
St. Mary's	6	3	1	2	27	13	7
St. Saviour's	3	2	0	1	14	14	4
Whitchurch Cres.....	5	1	1	3	6	9	3
Wells United	6	1	1	4	4	43	3
DIVISION IV.							
Hibernians	10	6	3	1	51	13	15
Canton Rovers	9	7	1	1	89	11	15
Whitchurch Noms..	8	6	0	2	36	19	12
Spiott Crusaders	8	5	1	2	54	17	11
Penarth Thistle R.	9	3	4	2	25	23	10
St. James'	11	3	4	4	25	28	10
St. Peter's	9	3	1	5	17	60	7
Etonians	8	1	3	4	11	36	5
Olive Thistle.....	8	1	3	4	14	26	5
St. Barnabas'	8	2	0	6	18	50	4
St. Patrick's	6	0	0	6	7	43	0

The little business before the meeting was soon disposed of. It was unofficially stated that Llandaff Yard had collapsed. This caused regret. From the same source it was stated that the last act of the Yardites was to decide to honourably pay the expenses of St. Agnes, Canton, and Roath, who visited their ground and played matches—a sum of three guineas. This caused satisfaction. However, as the information was not through an official channel, it was decided to communicate with Mr. Godsall, the secretary of the Llandaff Yard F.C., on the points.

The Roath Hornets and Barry United sat

9th January 1904, The Evening Express and the writing is on the wall (below)

Llandaff Yard stated that they could not afford to pay the expenses of the league clubs who had visited their ground, but were prepared to carry out three return fixtures as "friendlies." This is no advantage to the aggrieved clubs, as the fixtures were arranged as league contests. Moreover, the three visits Llandaff Yard propose to pay to Roath, Canton, and Grange Stars will cause the Yardites expense. The committee being in a conciliatory spirit asked Llandaff Yard to make a final monetary offer to the clubs by Tuesday next. Failing a definite or satisfactory reply, the matter will then immediately referred to the Welsh Union—thus the meeting decided.

Mr. S. Waters, the officially appointed referee in the match between Whitchurch

The newspapers continued to publish fixtures for forthcoming games and Llandaff Yard appeared in them a number of times, however in the absence of any evidence it's unlikely any of them were ever played and that the club had collapsed and all the players had moved on.

On 11th March 1905 we get an update on secretary Godsall from The Evening Express and here we are left to wonder whether he once worked at Melin Gruffydd and was one of those men that left these shores to pioneer steel production in the old Russia and if so, most likely in what is now Ukraine, some local men did.

Mr. J. Godsall, who a season or so ago was the hon. secretary of the Llandaff Yard Football Club, when that club won the Cardiff Union Shield, and who has been one of the most capable local referees this season, sails to-day for Russia. Referee Godsall has a big journey on, for he intends endeavouring to reach Perm, a town on the Volga near the boundary between Europe and Asia. After reaching Moscow it will take him some days to travel by rail to his destination.

Mr. Godsall is going out to work a machine of local manufacture, and his stay will be an extended one. Personally, I think it is a little safer just now refereeing in local matches than in existing in Russia, but as Godsall will persist in going—just when his services as referee were urgently required—on behalf of local football men I wish him every success.

On 25th March 1905 The Evening Express provided an update on a player who went on to pastures new and it demonstrates the quality of the players that Llandaff Yard had in their ranks at that time.

a really splendid centre.

CHARLIE CULVERWELL, Pontypridd.
 Charlie Culverwell, the Pontypridd half-back, commenced his football career in the St. Fagan's Club, playing at half for them for several seasons. In 1902 he joined the Llandaff Yard Team, and assisted them during that season to win the Cardiff and District Shield and Medals. At the end of that season the Llandaff Yard Fifteen went out of existence, and Charlie threw in his lot with the Dinas Powis Club. At the commencement of this season, yielding to heavy pressure, he filled the gap at half-back for the Pontypridd Club, and has done some splendid work for them.

On 22nd April 1905 The Evening Express provide an updated table of the local competition winners and Llandaff Yard sit proudly within it with Penarth United had their day in the sun, winning it the following season.

The following is the list of clubs who have won the Mallett Cup:—

- 1894.—Cardiff Reserves.
- 1895.—Cardiff Northern.
- 1896.—Roath.
- 1897.—Canton.
- 1898.—St. Paul's.
- 1899.—Mackintosh.
- 1900.—St. Peter's.
- 1901.—Mackintosh.
- 1902.—Romilly.
- 1903.—Grangetown Stars.
- 1904.—Romilly.

The shield winners are:—

- 1895.—Roath.
- 1896.—Mackintosh.
- 1897.—St. Peter's.
- 1898.—St. Mary's.
- 1899.—Grange Stars.
- 1900.—Roath Reserves.
- 1901.—Barbarians.
- 1902.—St. David's.
- 1903.—Llandaff Yard.
- 1904.—Penarth United.

The A. H. Williams' cup winners:—

- 1903.—St. Teilo's.
- 1904.—St. Mary's.

SPOKELETS.

17th September 1904, The Evening Express one brief example of a former player who chose to move on

played for Newport Eagles. He has chosen to throw in his lot with the villagers.

C. Culverwell, of St. Fagan's, who played for Llandaff Yard in the season of 1902-3, when they won the Cardiff and District Shield, is playing a grand game at half for the villagers, he having been selected once for Cardiff Seconds against Newport Seconds last season.

Although the club had ceased to be, a Junior team carried on flying the Llandaff Yard flag, on 30th October 1905 we get a brief account of their game against Whitchurch, The Evening Express

WHITCHURCH JUNIORS V. LLANDAFF YARD JUNIORS.
 Played at Whitchurch before a medium gate. Llandaff Yard kick off, but the Whitchurch boys smartly returned, and soon showed their superiority. Killin scored the first try, which was converted by Jones. Further tries were scored by Clements, Bennett, Llewellyn, Jeans (2), Bennett converting one. Final score:—Whitchurch, 2 goals, 4 tries; Llandaff Yard, nil.

We began this story with the Llandaff Yard Juniors and how fitting is it that we also end it with them? For any club, the juniors are the future.

Rather strangely, on 5th March 1906 the papers print the results of recent matches showing: Llandaff Old Boys, 1 Try; Llandaff Yard nil

On 26th December 1906 the papers showed this result: Whitchurch 1 Goal and 2 Tries; Llandaff Yard, nil

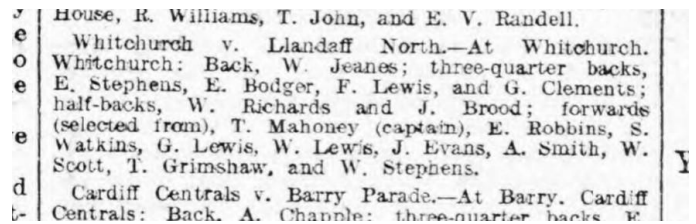
Then in later years we see more and more of a resurgence of rugby in the area 2nd January 1909, The Evening Express, this time as Llandaff North



Other teams making use of the home facilities, but where? 19th March 1909, The Evening Express



Old rivals lock horns, 24th September 1909, The Evening Express



Here the story ends. This document was written for family reasons so please excuse the moments of self indulgence. There's mention of many, many players and it's a privilege to have had family involved in it and to know a little bit more about what they achieved, if it goes some way to add heritage and value to the present community, all well and good and if you can pick out your own family even better, a few still live in the area to this day. A separate piece of research has been completed on Whitchurch rugby for the same era and if you do get to read it you'll find some players graced both these clubs, moving back and for between them.

Llandaff Yard Rugby

Early Fixtures – dates given are newspaper publication dates

1888

20th Jan @ Ely Rovers
18th Nov vs St German's

1889

19th Jan vs Harlequins
2nd Feb vs Cardiff Star
23rd Mar vs Cardiff Star
19th Oct vs Cardiff Rangers
8th Nov vs Canton
7th Dec vs Tredegarville

1890

4th Jan vs St David's
11th Jan vs Cardiff Harlequins 'A'
14th Feb vs Canton
28th March vs Cardiff Harlequins 'A'
18th Oct vs St Peter's
7th Nov vs Whitchurch
5th Dec

Llandaff Yard Juniors vs Adamsdown Juniors

1891

31st Jan vs Cardiff Harlequins
26th Sept vs Ely
17th Oct vs Maritime 2nds
23rd Oct vs Heath

1892

23rd Jan vs Ely Juniors
11th Mar vs Heath

1893

3rd Nov vs Barry
14th Oct vs Romilly
28th Oct vs Barry Crusaders
24th Nov vs Barry 2nds

1894

6th Apr vs Avondale
9th Nov vs St Mary's

23rd Nov vs Cathays Harlequins
 30th Nov vs Cowbridge
 7th Dec vs Llandaff Reserves

1896

17th Jan All Saints Llandaff Yard vs St Mary's 2nds

1897

22nd Jan vs Morganstown

1898

4th Nov 2nds vs St Monica's
 18th Nov vs St German's
 23rd Dec vs Cardiff Hornets

1899

20th Jan 2nds vs Canton Juniors
 27th Jan vs Old Monktonians
 3rd Feb vs Penylan
 11th Feb vs Llandaff
 22nd Sept vs St Andrews
 29th Sept vs Penarth Reserves
 26th Oct vs Pontypridd 2nds
 10th Nov vs Penylan
 17th Nov 2nds vs St Catherine's
 24th Nov vs St Agnes

1900

9th Feb vs Penarth Reserves

1901

8th Nov vs Old Monktonians
 29th Nov vs Tongwynlais
 6th Dec vs Old Monktonians
 27th Dec vs Penarth United

1902

10th Jan vs Old Monktonians
 24th Jan vs Empire Utd
 22nd March vs Llanharan
 11th Apr vs Llanishen
 19th Sept vs Gabalfa (at Barracks Field)
 5th Dec vs Penarth Reserves
 24th Dec vs Whitchurch
 26th Dec vs Gabalfa

1903

7th Feb vs Newport Extras

6 th March	vs Caerphilly United	
20 th March	vs Empire Utd	
3 rd Apr	vs Whitchurch	
25 th Sept	vs Penarth Reserves	
6 th Nov	vs Canton (Div 1)	
13 th Nov	vs Roath (Div 1)	
4 th Dec	vs Grange Stars (Div 1)	2nds vs Dinas Powis 2nds
11 th Dec	vs Penarth Reserves (Friendly)	
15 th Dec	vs Whitchurch	
18 th Dec	vs Romilly (Div 1 match)	

1904

31 st March	vs Chepstow St Mary's
5 th Feb	vs Roath (Div 1 match)
12 th Feb	vs Canton (Friendly)

25th Apr 1903 The Evening Express

Mallett Cup Finals.

GREAT GAMES AT CARDIFF TO-DAY.

Llandaff Yard v. Penarth United With the sun smiling in all its brilliance this afternoon, it was not surprising to find the gate for the Mallett finals suffering slightly, but the good number present were highly enthusiastic, and each team came in surrounded by supporters. "Stable information" was responsible for the belief that the shield for this season would find a home at Llandaff, yet the seaside "joint" were none the less determined for that bit of optimism. Teams:—

Llandaff Yard: Back, B. Lee; three-quarter backs, I. J. Tuckitt, G. Culverwell, S. Chard, and W. Lansdowne; half-backs, C. Culverwell and S. O. Else; forwards, T. Holtham (captain), W. Holtham, E. Holtham, T. Mahoney, J. Pritchard, W. Swaffield, W. Legge, and D. Seaman.

Penarth United: Back, C. Sutton; three-quarter backs, W. Jewell (captain), G. Shier, E. Best, and T. Shier; half-backs, S. Chick and G. Porter; forwards, C. Chick, H. Hill, J. Norman, G. Best, F. Blackmore, W. Roberts, T. Wallace, and J. Trought.

Referee, Mr. J. S. Philp.

Llandaff, having won the toss, C. Chick opened the game, the reply finding touch. From there close dribbling took play to the Penarth line, and two minors in succession were conceded. Stiff scrummaging for a minutes and then Culverwell broke off and slung out the ball to Lansdowne who got in a kick under most difficult circumstances. The third minor was then conceded. So far the wind had greatly bothered both sides, but Penarth improved their position with short kicks, and Tuckett and S. Chard kicked and ran back. Penarth were soon up again, though only for a moment, as the Llandaff backs with good range-finding kicks put their side on the offensive, and after Sutton had been laid out temporarily a scrum was formed near the Penarth posts. The ball came out to C. Culverwell and in a twinkling he had dropped a goal. Ineffectual attempts at re-starting were made, the ball being carried to touch by the high wind, and then E. Best made a mark from which his side greatly profited, as they galloped right up to the Llandaff line, where a knock-on alone robbed the Seaside of a score. Encouraging cheers were given as Penarth continued to hold a slight advantage, when suddenly Lansdowne fielded in daring fashion, and put in a useful high kick. A bunch of Llandaff men followed up well, and when it seemed an "odds on"

chance for a score P. Chick cut across and brought off a sensational tackle. Then J. Chard almost dropped a second goal. He worked into position nicely, and the shot just skimmed the post. Penarth were full of life on dropping out, for after Tuckitt had put in a big kick Sutton made good ground by finding touch grandly. Suddenly, however, Tuckett intercepted a pass, and running with rare speed outpaced all and gained a sensational try behind the posts, Peter Chard placed the extras. Subsequent play became more of a scrambling nature, and George Shier and Chick just averted another score, the latter receiving a knock-out in his attempt.

Half-time Score:

	G. T. M.
Llandaff Yard	*2 0 4
Penarth United	0 0 0 .
	*Dropped goal.

There was little delay in resuming, and Penarth, with the sun at their backs, were now expected to do better. They did not start too well, however, as a penalty was given against them quite early, and Peter Chard made a nice shot for goal. Tom Shier then brought relief with a long and tricky run, and for a full minute play waif keenly exciting. Sutton repelled one attack in great style, and after a futile drop at goal by the Llandaff back the Penarth custodian fielded, and running hard nailed the fielder. Directly after a beautiful round of passing by the Penarth backs put T. Shier over with a corner try, which Jewell just failed to convert. C. Chick fielded the drop-out, and nicely placed to touch on the Llandaff line. When the ball came out a penalty for Penarth was very narrowly missed by Sutton, but Penarth continued to force the pace, Tuckett saving once with Chick and Wallace right on him. A bit of hard scrimmaging followed close in, and G. Best charged a kick and scored, the excitement being raised to fever pitch as Jewell augmented and reduced the difference to a single point. The drop-out secured no relief, as Penarth, playing with big hearts, kept up high pressure. A minor and a penalty kick, both for Penarth, kept the interest up, and from a mark by T. Shier still another minor was registered. Penarth had the hardest of hard lines immediately after, for over-anxiety prevented T. Shier fielding and scoring. For the first time in this half Penarth was then forced out, and the whistle shortly after blew time.

Final score.

	G. T. M.
Llandaff Yard	*2 0 4
Penarth United	1 1 3
	*Dropped.

COMMENTS.

"Stable confidence" was once again well founded, but this time by the narrowest of margins. The luck went to the victors, and Penarth had the sympathy of the majority present. All the players in both teams worked hard for a victory, and it is unfair to individualise. It will, however, be gracefully and readily conceded by even the most enthusiastic of Llandaff's supporters that the Seasiders were decidedly the better team in the second half, and strove hard in the opening moiety against son and wind to keep the score down. As for Llandaff, they are a very clever lot, and despite a certain amount of uncalled for prejudice against them, are to be congratulated on their achievement.