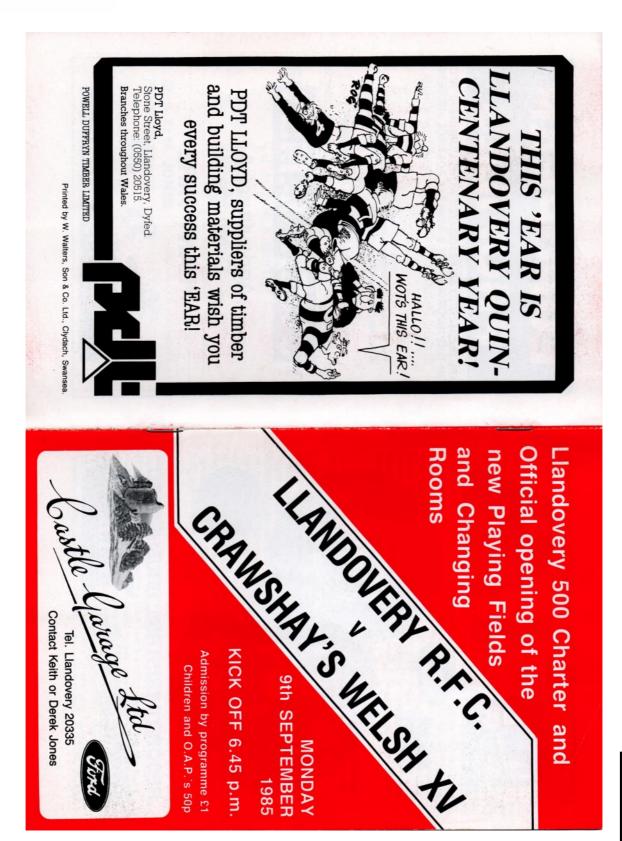
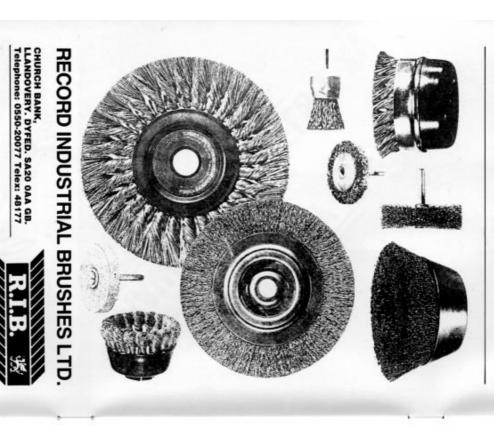


Courtesy Keith Faulkner





Courtesy Keith Faulkner



# A short history of Crawshay's Welsh R.F.C. XI

Crawshay's Welsh RFC is the only touring side, apart from the Barbarians, which fulfills regular fixtures annually, tours both home and overseas (which have included visits to Berlin on two occasions and to France for the last six years), Club Centenary, Charity and Special Celebration Matches.

Founded in 1922 by the late Captain Geoffrey Crawshay (a Bard and self-taught Weish Speaker), a President of London Weish RFC (and a Weish Guards Company Commander) to give Weish Players the opportunity to play together away from the intense rivalry and pressure of Club matches. The present officials are the President, His Honour Judge Rowe Harding (Life Member and only surviving 1922 tourist) and Arthur Rees, CBE, K.St.J., QPM, DL. (Chairman). The patron of the Club is Colonel Sir William Crawshay, DSO, Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre. They are aided by Russell Jenkins (Hon. Sec.) Angus Evans (Hon. Treas.), W. Neville Walsh (Hon. Team Sec.) actively connected with Bridgend RFC in various offices during the past 25 years, and Tony Browning (Newbridge), who appeared for the Club on a record 37 occasions manages the Youth side.

Over 250 Welsh Internationals, 5 English Internationals, 2 Irish Internationals, 2 Scottish Internationals and 1 Argentinian International have worn the famous maroon Crawshay jersey with it's leek emblem down the years.

Until September 1979, the Club journeyed to Devon and Cornwall annually when the famous initiation ceremony took place for new players and new Vice-Presidents alike. That tour was then replaced by visits to North Wales to foster Rugby in areas such as Wrexham, Ruthin and Bangor, where there is increasing interest in the game and West Wales, where Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire are making themselves a force. During recent years Crawshay's have entered Sevens in the Harlequin Sevens at Twickenham, Bridgend and Aberavon (winning two tourneys). For the last two seasons, they have been quarter finalists in the Cathays Pacific Hong Kong Sevens and have been quarter finalists in the Cathays Pacific Hong Kong Sevens and have been quarter finalists in the Gala Sevens. In April 1984 they were honoured by being granted a fixture against the WRU President's World XV at Llanelli, and have recently returned from a three week tour of South Africa.

Crawshays depend almost entirely on the subscriptions of their elected Vice-Presidents together with some sponsorship, and players who have been on a Crawshay tour state such an experience is unique in its enjoyment. The spirit of the Club is well expressed in a letter from a leading English Club who wrote—"From time to time your Club writes to ask us to release a certain Welsh player. We take the view that Rugby is still an amateur game, that no such consent is of course necessary, and a player should be free to play for a properly representative side such as yours who bring together Welsh players at the expense of your Rugby-loving Vice-Presidents. Thank you, however for your courtesy in notifying us."



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## Croeso i Crawshay's

We welcome home from their recent tour the Crawshay's Welsh RFC. We are sincerely grateful and appreciate them playing us, Llandovery RFC, as part of the Borough of Llandovery's Quin-Centenary celebrations of the granting of the Royal Charter by Richard III.

Over 250 Welsh Internationals have worn their famous jersey. others being the Ba-ba's) which fulfills fixtures regularly at home and overseas. Founded in 1922, Crawshay's Welsh XV are one of two touring sides (the

of the Welsh Rugby Union in 1881 have had fluctuating fortunes in the past for itself ing record at 1st XV, 2nd XV and Youth XV. Last season's Schweppes Cup ners) coupled with our promotion to Section A of the West Wales League speaks victory over Pontypridd and our worthy effort against Llanelli (the eventual winhave progressed tremendously, not only as a club, but most important our play-100 years. But in the past decade and especially since our centenary year we Llandovery RFC formed at least 42 years before then, and founder members

Both clubs try to initiate, propogate and integrate the game of Rugby not only traditionally and to win but simply for the players to enjoy the game for the enjoyment of us, the supporters who watch it.

Wales hospitality here in Llandovery tonight. you will witness and remember our humble but warm and sincere typical West Thank you all officials and players of Crawshay's Welsh RFC and I hope that

location, and what an asset to the club. Instrumental in acquiring the generous grant from the Sports Council, and a good loan from the WRU to purchase the

This game is being played on our super new playing field and what a beautiful

On behalf of the club I have great pleasure in inviting and welcoming the present President of the WRU, Alun Thomas, to open our new changing rooms fields in the late 70's was our then district representative and later President of the WRU, Hermas Evans, I take this opportunity of thanking him and welcome him to officially open the field tonight officially.

I must sincerely thank the committee, players and supporters and a whole host of people who have voluntarily contributed monetarily or with work, effort and time to realise and implement what was once just a dream. Diolch yn fawr Edrychwn ymlaen am flynyddoedd o chwarae dda mewn caeau rhagorol

Dr. J. T. WILLIAMS, President, Llandovery RFC

Courtesy Keith Faulkner



Read all about it . .

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as 'Canwyll y Cymru', and the celebrated hymn writer W. Williams, Pantycelyn

marks. This is also the town of the famous Vicar Pritchard, author of such books the Normans have come and gone in their turn, leaving behind their distinctive (born within the old Borough boundaries). On this unique occasion one must

It gives me special pleasure as both my wife and myself are 'Cywion Bawddwr

with pride reflect on our rich and varied history, and our cultural heritage.

Llandovery nestles among the Northern Carmarthen Hills. The Romans and

a Royal Charter to the town, and I, as Chairman of the Charter Committee feel very honoured to be asked to write this message.

This year Llandovery celebrates the Quincentenary of Richard III granting

Charter Committee

A message from the Chairman of the

name of Llandovery far and wide, in all walks of life, including the rugby field

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up. It was also a centre of cabinet makers and watchmakers. The Black Ox Bank was founded here, and early printing presses were set

Now is the time, not only to look back, but also to look forward with anticipa-

tion to the future prosperity and growth of our lovely market town. We look forward too, to the remaining celebrations that are still to take place

their rugby team for visiting this historic town. It is a great honour to have so many famous players visiting us, and I am sure the Llandovery Rugby Club and the town, increasing even further the enjoyment of the Charter celebrations this year with commendable results, and certainly brought credit to their club must feel proud indeed. They have played some very prominent teams earlier until the end of the year. May I very warmly thank the Crawshay Officials, and Finally, may I wish both the Crawshay Rugby Club and the Llandovery Rugby

JOHN FAULKENER

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MOMENT OF MAGIC — Flanker Elfyn Jenkins is buried under half the Pontypridd pack as referee Clive Norling signals the try that spells disaster for the visitors P.C. Dai Thomas looks pretty pleased with the outcome along with a couple of thousand others.

Page 6

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