



Tumble can't stop Drovers

Llandovery 6 Tumble 3

LLANDOVERY again stretched their lead at top of the Heineken League third division with a hard fought win over their great rivals Tumble.

On a day when most people would have preferred to be sitting at home in front of a warm fire, a large crowd turned out to see this thrilling game, which was still in the balance right up to the final whistle.

Tumble won the toss and chose to play into the teeth of the gusting wind and were prepared to defend for much of the first half.

In fact they defended so well, the league leaders could only cross their line once, and that followed a cruel bounce of the ball.

Carwyn Williams kicked ahead, and as the ball bounced it changed direction completely deceiving the Tumble defence.

Huw Thomas was first to react by gathering the ball and sending a try scoring pass out to Eirain

Jones. Carwyn Williams converted.

Llandovery failed to increase their lead by half-time and there were doubts whether the six point deficit would be enough to bring them victory.

The home forwards had other ideas and they adopted the tactics which brought New Zealand a hard fought victory in similar conditions against Llanelli.

The Drovers kept the ball away from Tumble for long periods, and when Tumble kicked the Llandovery backs ran back strongly.

It was an outstanding performance, with Wyn Williams winning line-out and then charging up-field, encouraging his team mates.

Llandovery depended on the rolling maul and

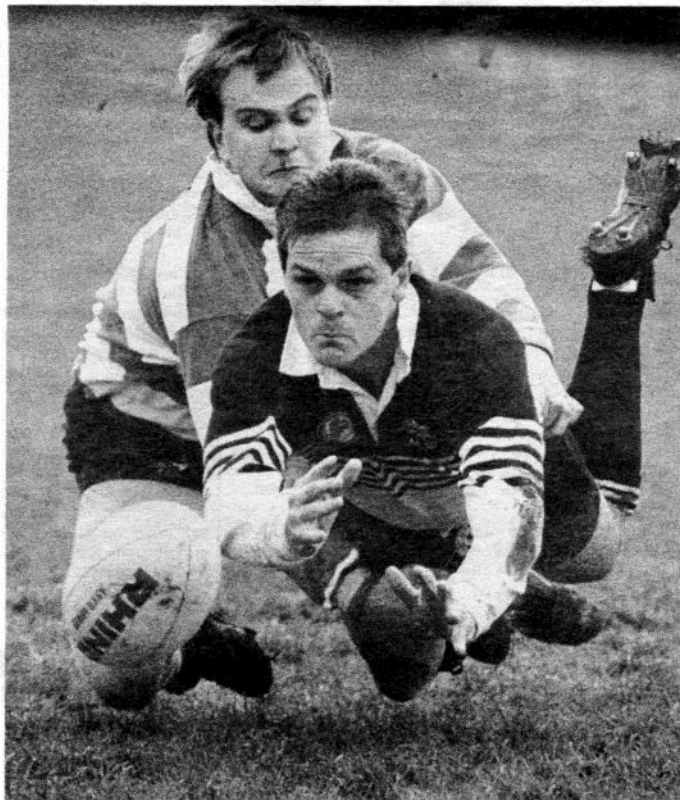
attacking around the fringes of rucks and mauls. Man of the match, number eight David Giles, did this to great effect from scrums, sucking in the back row and half-backs.

Outside-half Jarred Davies gave his side some hope when he landed a penalty mid-way through the second half.

And it was the free-scoring kicker who had the final throw of the dice when he tried to level matters with a drop goal in the final minute.

But to the obvious disappointment of the Magpie supporters the ball just drifted outside the post.

The match leaves Llandovery five points clear at the top, but Tumble's performance suggests they will be able to improve on their fourth place in the league.



● **DIVE PASS . . .** Tumble stand-in scrum-half Huw Davies, who was deputising for veteran Arwel Davies, gives the perfect example of how to execute a dive pass, while under pressure from Llandovery's Adrian Davies during Saturday's 6-3 win by the Drovers in the Heineken League Third Division.

Guardian picture.



● **NOWHERE TO GO . . .** Llandovery's Elfyn Jenkins looks to have run down a dead end, as he is challenged by Tumble tacklers.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams



● **SCORING PASS** . . . Huw Thomas is about to send out a matchwinning pass to Eirian Jones to score Llandovery's only try in their 6-3 win over Tumble on Saturday.

Title chase warming up

LLANDOVERY maintained their five point lead at the top of the Heineken League Third Division with an 18-6 win over Kidwelly.

Meanwhile Tumble kept well in touch in fourth place with a 16-7 win at home against Blackwood.

The Drovers were given a good start by their sea-side opponents when they were gifted three needless penalties, which Carwyn Williams gratefully snapped up.

Williams was to grab a fourth penalty, but his most memorable contribution was a dummy which started a 70 yard movement. The ball eventually found its way into the

hands of hooker Gerald Lewis, who dived over for a try converted by Williams.

At Parc Y Mynydd Mawr Rumble bounced back from their narrow defeat against Llandovery, thanks mainly due to the efforts of Jared Davies, who controlled the game from outside half.

He also contributed to the points with a penalty, a drop goal, and a conversion. Tumble's tries were scored by Paul Jones and Mike Williams.



Heineken sides need a reminder

TUMBLE and Llandovery will have to remind themselves what Heineken League rugby is like by the time they play their next league fixtures.

Their last league games were on January 12, and because of Schweppes Cup dates, internationals and last week's postponements they don't have another scheduled Heineken match until March 9 - a two month lay-off, apart from friendlies.

Meanwhile, following last week's snow, the league management com-

mittee is looking at cutting back on the number of games played during December and January.

Committee chairman Mr John Powell said: "We were lulled into a false sense of security over the last couple of seasons with two quiet winters.

"There were hardly any games called off in recent seasons because of frozen

pitches. But you just cannot predict the weather."

Mr Powell summed up the sentiments of all rugby players and followers saying: "It's immensely frustrating. Saturday afternoon is not quite a Saturday afternoon without rugby."

● Llandovery have rearranged last Saturday's cancelled match against Blackwood for March 30.

DROVERS STAY FIT

LLANDOVERY RFC found a novel way of beating the recent big freeze and keeping their players fit and supple.

The Heineken League third division leaders enlisted the help of local aerobics instructor Dawn Jones.

Coach Stan Liptrot said: "Dawn really worked the boys hard, especially trying to improve their flexibility.

"Last year she got

everyone involved in a sponsored aerobics marathon to raise money for Children In Need and she was very happy to help when the weather set it.

"We could have done without the long break. We were on a winning run and looking to maintain the momentum.

"There could be a lot of surprise results when we return to league action, depending on how well the sides have looked after themselves."



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 WW05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

991

TUMBLE have not given up hope of gaining one of the two third division promotion places in the Heineken League this season.

Although the Magpies are lying fourth in the table and four points behind Tenby United, who are currently second to Llandovery, they believe a hundred per cent record in their last five games would leave them in with a chance.

One of those matches is at Tenby on March 23, and that is a match they really must win to give them any chance.

Tumble spokesman Nigel Thomas says his side's past experience in the West Wales league could help them.

He said: "We've seen to many successful late runs over the years to discount our chances yet. We've won more than one West Wales champion-

ship with a late run, although overhauling Llandovery looks unlikely."

But more immediately Tumble must meet the challenge of a home match against St Peters, who knocked them off the top of the third division back in November with a 15-9 win.

Going into that game Tumble had not conceded a try in any of their first five Heineken League matches, but a score by former Penarth wing broke their proud record. At present St Peters are lying fourth from bottom of the league.

This will be Tumble's first Heineken league match since January 12, but they have kept up their fitness with recent wins

over second division strugglers Bonymaen (24-14) and a convincing result over West Wales Section A high flyers Ystradgynlais by 29-6.

Gwendraeth Valley Comprehensive School PE master Geoff Evans has also been helping team manager Clive John keep his players in good shape.

Llandovery will be hoping their enforced lay-off, also since January 12, will not throw their charge for the championship out of its stride.

Coach Stan Liptrot says the delay due to bad weather and international dates could result in some shock results, but hopefully not at Church Bank on Saturday where Llandovery take on Pontypool United.

When the two sides met earlier in the season United managed to take a surprise lead, but Llandovery

hit back with four tries which put them top of the table on try count following the 20-7 win.

Llandovery's real test is likely to come on April 6 when they entertain Tenby in what could be the clash that decides the championship.

Third placed Cilfynydd have received a blow to their promotion hopes. Their influential outside-half Paul Jones, who is a self-employed carpenter, has been forced to look for work in Birmingham and is likely to be unavailable for the rest of the season.

● Kidwelly have appointed former Aberavon back row player John Davies as caretaker coach after the resignation of Ray Williams. John is a Kidwelly man who has lived in South Africa for many years.

TUMBLE preserved their slim hopes of promotion from Heineken League Division Three thanks to a fine display by Jared Davies who scored 12 points in the 24-10 win over St Peters.

This victory sets up what should be a cracking encounter at second placed Tenby United which Tumble must win to stay in with a chance.

On Saturday Tumble fell behind to a penalty, but soon hit back when they were awarded a pen-

alty try converted by Davies.

Then Davies converted a try of his own, before St Peters scored their only try of the match.

Arwel Davies extended Tumble's lead with another try converted by Jared Davies. St Peters kicked a

penalty, but Paul Jones rounded off Tumble's scoring with another try, which Davies again converted.

Meanwhile any worries about shocks following their long lay off were dispelled by Llandovery as they maintained their three point lead at the top.

Huw Thomas opened the scoring when he ran in from 30 metres for an excellent try. Carwyn Williams converted and added a penalty.

Flanker Chris Davies claimed Llandovery's second try, converted by Williams, making the final score 15-3.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 WW05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Meanwhile, Llandovery, who only need three points from their last four games, were brought down to earth with a bump by 34-3 defeat against a full strength Pontypridd side at Sardis Road.

On Saturday Llandovery should do better against at St Peters, who they beat 12-3 at Church Bank in November thanks to four Hywel Jones penalties.

Meanwhile Llandovery slipped to only their second defeat of the season at St Peters, but maintained a one point lead at the top.

A late try from St Peters second-row Steve Stewart clinched a famous victory for the Cardiff club, who put up an excellent display on the day.

Llandovery took the lead with a try through scrum-half Arwel Davies, which was converted by outside-half Carwyn Williams.

St Peters hit back with a try and a penalty to take a 7-6 lead. The leaders managed to regain the lead through a try by Eifion Jenkins, which was again converted by Williams.

Another penalty by St Peters put them within striking distance before Stewart clinched the points.

On Saturday Llandovery get the chance to

put their championship hopes back on the tracks at Blackwood.

If they should fail to win, that will set up a real championship decider at home to Tenby on April 6. At the moment only point separates the two sides after 15 games each and three to play.

Meanwhile Tumble will be hoping to finish as high up the table as possible. On Saturday they travel to Pontypool United.



League sides back in action

CANCELLED MATCH
Blackwood for March 30.

TUMBLE and Llandovery return to Heineken League third division action this week after almost a month's lay-off since the last round of games on January 12.

But despite the lack of league action there has been plenty happening on and off the field in the Magpies camp.

While they have chalked up friendly wins against Morriston (17-12) and Penclawdd (45-0), there have been a few changes behind the scenes as well.

Following an extraordinary meeting of the Tumble committee, the side's coach Clive John will now also take over as team manager.

The old selection com-

mittee is being dispensed with and John will now pick the team with the aid of his captain and his coaching staff.

Tumble spokesman Nigel Thomas says: "It's been mooted for years. It's logical to streamline our administration. With the Heineken League here to stay, we thought it best to act now."

The new system will get its first league test on Saturday when Tumble travel to face Pontypool United.

The last time the two sides met was at Parc Y

Mynydd Mawr when Tumble were top of the table and yet to concede a try. On that occasion the Magpies won 20-0.

Meanwhile, the current leaders Llandovery have had their lead at the top cut to three points after Tenby United beat Kidwelly 9-34. Once again it looks as if Ben Childs could be the biggest single threat to Llandovery's title hopes, he chipped in with 20 points.

If Llandovery do hang on at the top until the end of the season they will be in for a windfall of £5,750 in prize money.

Club secretary Mr Roland Griffiths said: "It's a magnificent amount of money. We could spend it time and time again. It is a question of making priorities."

The Towy Valley club are not afraid to spend money to improve their facilities. Floodlights and an impressive new clubhouse are already in use, while there are plans in the pipeline for a new stand.

Mr Griffiths adds: "We could never have enough money. On a smaller scale, we are looking for a scrummaging machine, for example. But I have been told that will cost us between £4,000 and £4,500. It's a lot of money.

"This sort of money has never been poured into rugby at this level before. We truly appreciate what the sponsors are doing. Coupled with our own fund raising, our own resources and our own efforts, a club like Llandovery can only go from strength to strength."

On Saturday, the Drovers are going to Blackwood, who are on a high after their 34-12 cup win over Second Division Aberavon Quins.

When the two sides met earlier in the season Llandovery were pushed all the way by Blackwood, who dominated the game for long periods. It took some great Llandovery defence and an Adrian Davies try to clinch the points by 12-6.



'DROVERS' GOING UP!

LLANDOVERY clinched their place in the Heineken League Second Division with a hard fought win over Blackwood last weekend.

Now they are lined up for what should be a cracking championship decider against Tenby United, who are two points behind in second place at Church Bank this Saturday.

A win for Llandovery will clinch the title for them, even a draw would make them certainties with just one match at Kenfig Hill remaining.

But the Towy Valley side would surely prefer to win the race for the championship in front of their own fans.

The last time Llandovery met Tenby they ran out winners by 30-18 in a cracking match played in front of the television cameras and a huge crowd.

Last Saturday the long time division 3 leaders were behind at one point, but fought back and took complete control in the

last 20 minutes with two tries.

Two penalties from outside-half Carwyn Williams had put the Drovers ahead early on, but Blackwood hit back hard with three penalties from Graison Williams.

With 18 minutes remaining Llandovery full-back Hywel Jones brought Llandovery level with a penalty.

The visitors then pulled away with tries by left wing Arwel Rowlands and Carwyn Williams. Jones Kicked a conversion and a further three points to make the final score 22-9.

Tumble, who are out of the promotion race, stayed just behind the top three with a 20-10 win at Pontypool United.

They scored two early tries which were both the result of charged down kicks, half-backs Arwel Davies and Jared Davies grabbing the touchdowns.

Centre Wayne Price added a third try before the Gwent side scored a try through centre Duane Phillips. Paul Gwatkin added a penalty, his second of the match.

Tumble scored a fourth try when Davies crossed for his second. The outside half also kicked two conversions.

● Llandovery and Tumble's second teams met in the Llanelli and District Towy Ford Cup on Easter Monday with Llandovery coming out on top by 12-0.

In the quarter-final of the Llanelli and District Welsh Brewers Champions Cup Ammanford pulled off a shock 10-7 win after extra time against Tregaron.

On Monday night Amman Quins play Tumble in the quater final of the champions cup at Cefneithin.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 WW05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

**Llandovery 0 pts
Tenby 0**

By MALCOLM LEWIS

PROMOTION winners Llandovery and keen rivals at the top of the Third Division, Tenby United, fought out their own version of the Eton Wall game in the worst conditions that could be possibly envisaged at this time of year.

A fierce, numbing wind that whipped lateral rain across the length of a swamp-like pitch reduced this contest to a muddy, mauling battle between two well-matched packs.

It was an exercise in trench warfare with the forwards keeping the ball buried among themselves and contesting every inch of ground with riveting resolution.

Tenby came nearest to breaking the deadlock. Left wing Steve Hartland actually crossed the Llandovery line from a blind-side thrust early in the game.

As the wing crashed over in the corner, referee J G Morgan was ready to award a try until he saw the raised flag of the Tenby touch-judge for a foot in touch.

Llandovery are already assured of promotion to Division Two and Tenby are virtually there.

What remains to be decided is the Division Three championship and that will be settled by what happens next Saturday in the final matches of the Heineken League.

Llandovery are away to Kenfig Hill and Tenby are at home to Blackwood. Even if Tenby slip up without scoring a try, they can only be pipped for promotion in the unlikely event of nearest challengers Cilfynydd scoring 10 tries in the process of a home win over visiting Tumble.

"We would have liked to have tied everything up today," said Tenby team manager Tony Powl- ing as the players rushed for steaming hot showers.

"We wanted to win it, but we couldn't ask for any more than the players gave. We are satisfied with a point."

Llandovery coach Stan Liptrot was of a similar mind. "It was a fair result," he said. "Our

control in the second half was superb and they did very well in the first half.

"Both sides dictated the lines-out against the wind. That shows that the line-out always favours the side into the wind.

"It was a game where you have got to take your chances from dropped ball, but neither side looked like dropping the ball.

"The handling of the high ball in those conditions was absolutely superb."

Tenby captain Ben Childs, who won the toss, had no hesitation in playing the first half against the wind once he had heard that the referee intended to see the match go full distance.

His forwards met the challenge head-on with some magnificent close support driving play with scrum half Mike Griffiths joining them as an extra thruster and mauler.

Griffiths was outstanding, relishing the role he played in lending weight to the Tenby effort up front, which would have surely succeeded but for some equally outstanding defensive play by the home side.

During this pressure, prop and pack leader Colwyn Harts forced his way over the Llandovery line without being able to ground the ball.

Early in the second half Griffiths almost scored in going for the corner. "If he had dived, he would have slid in," contended the Tenby team manager.

If the match had to be decided on territorial advantage, Tenby would have won it by a mile.

Even in the face of the wind, they had much the better of the contest, but it is not for nothing that Llandovery can boast the best defensive record in the division.

Little separates them otherwise. They have each scored 43 tries in 17 League matches. Both richly deserve the promotion that awaits them.

Llandovery: H Jones; A Rowlands, H Thomas, A Thomas, C Davies; C Williams, A Davies; D Thomas, G Lewis, A Evans, N Clarke, W Williams (capt), E Jenkins, D Giles (I Jones 30m), C Davies

Tenby: G Scotcher; C Hughes, C Evans, N Truman, S Hartland; B Childs (capt), M Griffiths; C Harts, J Richards, A Evans, P Kidney, G Price, R Llewellyn, E Lewis, G Thomas.
Referee: J G Morgan (Pontyclun).



SPLASHING THROUGH: Tenby attackers sash their weary way into Llandovery territory in this no-score draw



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams



Llandovery and Tenby play out a Heineken League stalemate



MUDDY GREAT! Llandovery players celebrate promotion to Division Two of the Heineken League — and now aim to clinch the division title.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

LEAGUE TABLES

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Tr	Pt
Neath.....	14	13	0	1	43	26
Bridgend.....	15	9	2	4	27	20
Llanelli.....	14	9	1	4	43	19
Cardiff.....	15	8	1	6	45	17
Swansea.....	15	8	0	7	42	16
Pontypool.....	14	7	0	7	47	14
Newbridge.....	14	6	0	8	41	12
Pontypridd.....	13	5	1	7	34	11
Glam Wands.....	15	3	0	12	14	6
Abertillery.....	15	1	1	13	9	3

Second Division

	P	W	L	D	Tr	Pt
Dunvant.....	15	12	2	1	33	35
Llanharan.....	15	12	3	0	47	24
Mountain Ash.....	16	10	4	2	42	22
Blaina.....	16	9	5	2	43	20
Rumney.....	15	6	6	3	27	15
Narberth.....	15	5	7	3	23	13
Wrexham.....	17	5	12	0	23	10
Treorchy.....	13	4	8	1	22	9
Bonymaen.....	16	4	11	1	20	9
Aberavon Quins.....	16	3	13	0	19	6

First Division

	P	W	L	D	Tr	Pt
Newport.....	12	11	1	0	76	22
SW Police.....	12	9	3	0	35	18
Aberavon.....	12	8	4	0	45	16
Maesteg.....	11	7	4	0	28	14
Cross Keys.....	11	4	7	0	18	8
Tredeggar.....	11	4	7	0	16	8
Ebbw Vale.....	11	3	8	0	24	6
Penarth.....	12	0	12	0	7	0

Third Division

	P	W	L	D	Tr	Pt
Llandovery.....	17	13	2	2	43	28
Tenby United.....	17	12	3	2	43	26
Cilfynydd.....	17	11	4	2	34	24
Tumble.....	17	11	6	0	41	22
Blackwood.....	15	7	8	0	39	14
St Peter's.....	14	6	7	1	35	13
Kenfig Hill.....	16	6	9	1	34	13
Kidwelly.....	17	6	11	0	26	12
Pontypool.....	16	5	11	0	21	10
Ruthin.....	16	0	16	0	4	0



● MUDDY LANDINGS . . . A Llandovery defender brings his opposite number down to earth with a squelch during Saturday's Heineken League match.

Championship in the balance

A DRAW at Kenfig Hill on Saturday will be enough to seal the Heineken League Third Division Championship for Llandovery on Saturday and earn the club an extra £500.

Llandovery are already assured a massive £5,250 after clinching promotion, but would love to enter the Second Division as champions.

Coach Stan Liprot says: "You can't ignore the financial aspect. The prize money is a tremendous boost to our finances and if we go up as champions attracting a big

sponsor would be much easier."

The title race goes to the last match of the season following the 0-0 draw in the mud against Tenby United last Saturday.

The draw keeps Llandovery's two point lead at the top intact, so any sort of positive result at Kenfig Hill will do.

But if Llandovery lose and Tenby beat Blackwood, the championship will be decided on try count, and going into Saturday's games both sides are locked on 43 tries each. Basically Llandovery must not lose.

Last Saturday's weather conditions were a bitter disappointment for the spectators of both side's who were hoping for a classic showdown.

It was Tenby who emerged from the quagmire to create the better chances, but Llandovery's

defence stood firm.

Tumble are finishing the season on a high note, and veteran scrum-half Arwel Davies is part of the reason.

On Saturday he chipped in with a couple of tries in the 20-6 win over Kenfig Hill on Saturday.

Tumble were trailing 6-4 at the interval, but hit back with the wind behind them through tries by number eight Paul Jones, prop Martin King and Davies' second try. Jared Davies and Eurig Morgan added conversions.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

NOW FOR OUR SECOND TITLE

Kenfig Hill 8, Llandovery 21

LLANDOVERY'S delighted rugby coach has already got his eyes on his next Heineken league target — the top of Division Two!

Englishman Stan Liptrot told the Guardian that he was happy and relieved for his team after have clinched the Division Three title with a thundering away victory at Kenfig Hill.

Llandovery made sure of the Heineken League Third Division Championship thanks to an inspired second half performance which brought them 18 points.

The West Wales side which has proved to be a model of consistency throughout the long season had to win or draw at Kenfig Hill to clinch the title.

The home side, how-

ever, made the better start with some impressive work by their heavy-weight pack.

Llandovery were pinned in their own half for much of the opening quarter.

But they gradually asserted themselves and Carwyn Davies was able to calm the nerves with a well judged penalty goal.

But the visitors' joy proved short-lived. For almost immediately Kenfig Hill went ahead when a Carwyn Williams chip ahead was intercepted and centre Burnell went over the corner to establish a 4-3 lead.

Stung by this reversal,

the visitors stepped up a gear and their more concerted forward play resulted in the award of five penalties but these were all missed by the usually reliable Carwyn Williams.

On the stroke of half time a rolling maul by the Kenfig Hill pack created the platform for a try by Lyn Jenkins, which meant an interval score of Kenfig Hill, Llandovery 3.

Within minutes of the resumption the visitors had reduced the lead with a Carwyn Davies long range penalty kick.

Llandovery at last were playing to their full potential, the forwards were gaining increasing as-

cendancy and the resultant possession released their talented three quarters.

An incisive run by speedy wing Carwyn Davies put Llandovery into a good attacking position in the home 22.

Llandovery won possession from the resultant scrum and No. 8 David Gales cross the line for a try. Carwyn Williams added the conversion points and the Llandovery supporters could at last relax with the score showing 12-8 in their favour.

The home side were clearly tiring and Llandovery launched a succession of slick passing three quarter movements.

Centre Alan Thomas was well tackled on the Kenfig Hill 22, his speculative pass was well picked up by Llandovery skipper and second row forward Alan Thomas who

crossed for his first try of the season, a popular score this, Alan's first and Llandovery's last in Division Three of the Heineken League.

Carwyn Davies slotted over the conversion and in the dying minutes followed this up with another penalty kick to seal a famous Llandovery victory by 21 points to 18.

Afterwards I spoke to their delighted coach Englishman Stan Liptrot, who was clearly delighted with his team's success. "I'm happy and relieved,"

Said Liptrot: "We led for most of the season and that meant that we were the team to beat."

Looking to Division Two rugby, he said: "We are quite confident — we've got a strong squad."

"And it's my intention to go for the championship again."

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM SHEET

LLANDOVERY RFC 1st XV
v
KENFIG HILL RFC 1st XV

Date: 13.04.91 Players Meet: 12.15pm
Kick Off: 3.00pm Coach Leaves: 12.30pm.

15	Hywel Jones	
14	Alun Rowlands	
13	Alun Thomas	cap.
12	Huw Thomas	
11	Carwyn Davies	
10	Carwyn Williams	cap.



HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE

9	Agard Davies	
1	David Thomas	
2	Gwyn Jones	cap.
3	Alun Evans	
4	Wyn Williams	cap.
5	Ian Jones	cap.
6	Chris Davies	
7	Kenfig Davies	
8	Nigel Clark/David Jones	sat. comms.

Replacements:

Ruria Evans	Emyr James
Neil Thomas	Eliad Jones
Hugh Evans	Hugh Protheroe



Don't Miss the Official Man of the Match in **WALES** on Sunday



DROVERS MEET THEIR MATCH

LLANDOVERY looked to be invincible in the early rounds of the Welsh Rugby Union District F Sevens at Waunarlwydd on Saturday, that is until they met Llandybie in the final.

The Drovers did not concede a single point in their four matches leading up to the final where they faced Llandybie, who themselves had enjoyed an impressive route by beating Waunarlwydd, Llandeilo, and Llangennech comfortably.

Llandybie scrum-half Simon Williams pulled out of the final due to injury. Phil Lewis stepped into this unusual role and was quite inspirational to Llandybie.

And it was Lewis who opened the scoring in the final with a try in the very first minute. The touchline conversion by Mike Lewis, really was the icing on the cake.

With Dai Wigley, Robert Owen and Simon Evans, playing out of their skins, Llandovery were on the receiving end for a change, but they soon hit back with an unconverted try by Carwyn Davies.

Llandybie winger Wyn Williams soon increased his side's lead with another brilliant corner try. The conversion by Mike Lewis made the interval score 12-4 to Llandybie.

Llandovery hit back through another Carwyn Davies try, but with the Llandovery enthusiasm somewhat dampened scrum-half Lewis broke clear to score wide out.

With winger Warren

Leach stepping into touch a yard from the try line after a marvellous 60 metre touchline run, it was all Llandybie at this stage.

Player of the tournament Dai Wigley crowned a marvellous day for the Reds with a solo effort from half-way for a try under the posts. Mike Lewis added the conversion to make the final score 22-8.

The highest scorer of the tournament was Llandovery's ex-international winger Carwyn Davies, who totted up an incredible 58 points on his own including a six try haul against Tumble in the first round.

Llandybie had a wing sensation of their own in the shape of debut making Warren Leach who scored some brilliant tries thanks

to sheer pace, and he looks a very good player.

Results: Preliminary round - Brynaman 4 Ammanford 14; Pontarddulais 0 Llandovery 28; Loughor 16 Tumble 20. First round - Llandybie 24 Waunarlwydd 10; Llandeilo 30 Cwmgors 0; Hendy, walkover against Penclawdd; Amman United 0 Llangennech 24; Gorseinon 6 Gowerton 16; Penygroes 14 Cefneithin 10; Pontyberem 12 Ammanford 4; Llandovery 30 Tumble 0.

Second round - Llandybie 22 Llandeilo 16; Hendy 6 Llangennech 16; Gowerton 17 Penygroes 6; Pontyberem 0 Llandovery 30.

Semi-finals - Llandybie 28 Llangennech 10; Gowerton 0 Llandovery 28.

Final Llandybie 22 Llandovery 8.

Cup joy for Huw

A BRACE of tries by Llandovery number eight Huw Protheroe gave the Drovers' second string to an exciting win over Llanybydder in the final of the Ilanelli and District Towy Ford Cup.

This was the first time Llandovery had won the cup and they did it in style by beating the holders at Cae Carwyn James, Cefneithin. Full back added a conversion and penalty to Protheroe's tries.

For Llanybydder centre Neville Wilson dropped two goals, and his brother Mark kicked a penalty.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

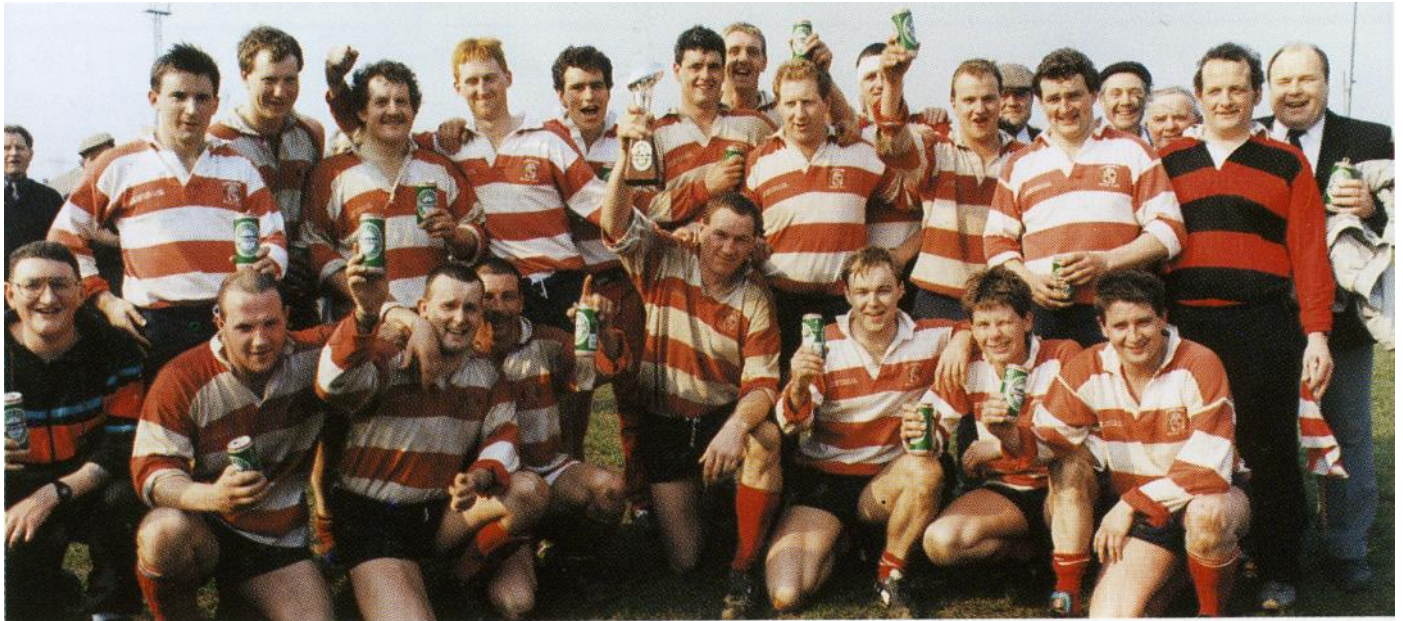


● REACHING THE PARTS THAT OTHERS CAN'T... Llandovery RFC's team and officials are pictured before leaving for the Heineken League dinner in Cardiff. Llandovery — this season's Division Three champions — are looking forward to playing in a higher division under the tuition of their coach Stan Liptrot.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams



Third Division Champions 1990/1 Llandovery.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams





SUCCESSFUL SKIPPERS: The captains of the four Heineken League title winners yesterday, Richard Llewellyn (Dunvant), Wyn Williams (Llandovery), Kevin Phillips (Neath) and Glen George (Newport)

Accolade for reject Ring

MARK RING is one of the Heineken League Premier Division players of the year.

Yet he is not required for the Welsh tour to Australia next month.

Cardiff ace Ring yesterday was named as one of the premier centres of the season by the coaches, captains and managers of the 10 leading teams.

However, Ring has been ignored for national duty Down Under when Wales undertake a gruelling six-match World Cup build-up in the summer.

And that vote for Ring comes from his opponents, naming those who they regard as the best in their positions.

Their alternative line-ups were unveiled at the inaugural lunch

By **JOHN KENNEDY**

of the Heineken National League in Cardiff yesterday.

Ring won the vote alongside Scott Gibbs in the midfield as the best of the premier centres, but seven of the other players on Wales duty at Parc des Princes in March failed to gain the approval of their opposite numbers.

Out of favour are Arthur Emyr, Neil Jenkins, Chris Bridges, Kevin Phillips, John Davies, Paul Arnold and Emyr Lewis.

In are Bleddyn Taylor, Aled Williams, Rupert Moon, Garin Jenkins, Simon Jenkins, Richard Goodey and Lyn Jones.

Obviously, England B scrum half Moon could not come into the Welsh equation, but the backing for Bridgend fly half Aled Williams, Pontypool hooker

Garin Jenkins and Llanelli flanker Jones provide considerable debating points.

But if individuals provoked debate, the overall concept of the league structure was declared an outright winner.

"I only wish they had been introduced 15 years ago," said guest speaker Gareth Edwards, "18 matches a season is quite enough."

The All Star teams are:

Premier Division: P Thorburn (Neath); I Evans (Llanelli), M Ring (Cardiff), S Gibbs (Neath), B Taylor (Swansea); A Williams (Bridgend), R Moon (Llanelli); M Griffiths (Cardiff), G Jenkins (Pontypool), S Jenkins (Newbridge), Glyn Llewellyn (Neath), R Goodey (Pontypool), M Morris (Neath), P Davies (Neath), L Jones (Llanelli).

First Division: L Lewis (Aberavon); I Jeffreys (Ebbw Vale), A Dragone (Aberavon), R Bidgood (Newport), A

Lewis (Newport); P Turner (Newport), D Llewellyn (Newport); M Davis (Newport), C Hillman (SW Police), H Williams-Jones (SW Police), J Wakeford (SW Police), D Waters (Newport), G George (Newport), I Hemburrow (SW Police), A Carter (Newport).

Second Division: R Williams (Llanharan); P Farnworth (Dunvant), N Bolton (Dunvant), A Jones (Treorchy), A Young (Narberth); J Morris (Llanharan), T Lee (Rumney); W Merry (Llanharan), D Morris (Dunvant), J Pick (Llanharan), D Crane (Dunvant), A Davies (Mountain Ash), N Davies (Blaina), T Worgan (Llanharan), P Morris (Dunvant).

Third Division: S Harris (St Peter's); G Snook (St Peter's), S Matthews (St Peter's), H Thomas (Llandovery), C Davies (Llandovery); B Childs (Tenby Utd), R Lewis (Blackwood); A Evans (Llandovery), E Price (Tumble), C Harts (Tenby Utd), W Williams (Llandovery), J Parker (Tumble), E Jenkins (Llandovery), M Evans (Tenby Utd), C Davies (Llandovery).



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams





Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams





Drovers drive to another win

Llandovery 22 Bonymaen 6

WITH the driving wind and rain at their backs Llandovery managed to build an invincible lead in the first half of this Heineken League clash with Bonymaen on Saturday.

Bonymaen's decision to play into the wind in the first half failed to pay off as Llandovery's strong backs and classy forwards took advantage of the conditions.

Combined play by forwards and backs led to the ball being fed to Carwyn Davies. He stepped inside his opponent, and then outside the covering defence to score wide-out after five minutes. Carwyn Williams converted.

A Williams penalty, was followed by a fine Chris Davies try created by good forward play. Williams converted.

Another penalty, and there was no holding the confident home team. Carwyn Williams scored the third try to bring his personal tally to 14 points.

Would 22 points be enough in the second half against the elements.

The pack provided the

answer by taking play into Bonymaen territory. Llandovery could have increased their lead after 15 minutes, but for cold, wet fingers leading to dropped passes.

Although Bonymaen clawed back six points through two penalties, they never looked like scoring a try. Llandovery face Mountain Ash at home on Saturday. Kick-off 2pm.

League returns

Heineken League rugby gets underway again on Saturday with Llandovery and Tumble hoping to keep up their excellent starts, while Ystradgynlais will be looking for improvement.

In Division 3, Llandovery face an awkward trip to take on Narberth, who are a couple of places below the Drovers in fifth place.

One bonus for Llandovery is that Narberth will be without former Wales B full-back Geraint Bowen, who hasn't yet recovered from a cartilage operation.

Although Llandovery have won all three games this season they are still behind Blaina and Tenby United, so they will be hoping for a good win on Saturday.

Tumble, who also have a 100 per cent record, and are the joint top points scorers in the league, are at home to Blackwood.

The Gwent side have been using some high technology to try and strengthen their weaknesses by videotaping their matches and then studying the faults.

Tumble will be hoping the latest video will not make pleasant viewing for the Blackwood coaching staff.

Ystradgynlais, who have openly admitted to finding life difficult in the Heineken League, are at home to Kidwelly, who have been experiencing similar problems.

If Ystrad are to make progress up the table, this is the type of match they really must win.



FIRST DEFEAT FOR

Llandovery 9 Narberth 12

LLANDOVERY slipped to their first Heineken League defeat of the season when they failed to convert first half pressure into points against Narberth.

The visitors started well against the 'Otters', winning regular line out ball, and three strikes against the head in the scrums.

However, Narberth took the lead against the run of play after 18 minutes, when centre Nigel Hearn landed a penalty.

Llandovery hit back straight away. When a long run down the right

hand side by centre Huw Thomas was checked, Llandovery moved the ball to the left. A long pass to Carwyn Davies sent him over wide out. Hywel Jones converted from the touchline.

The visitors had, however, missed three kickable penalties during the half, which should have made the game safe.

Instead they had to be

content with a straight forward penalty by Carwyn Williams for a late tackle on centre Alun Thomas.

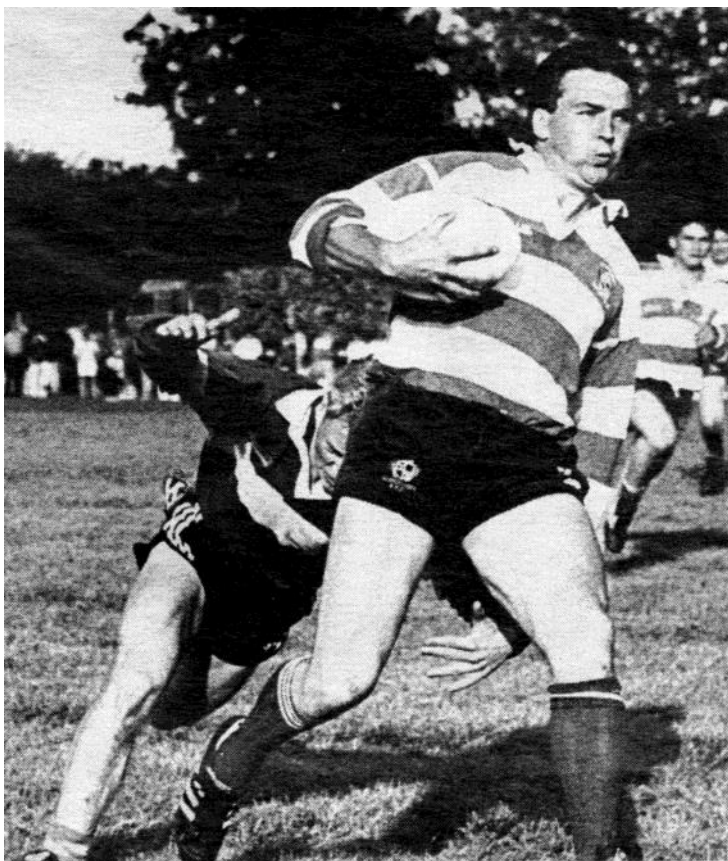
In the second-half Narberth made good use of the slope and the breeze to pin Llandovery into their own half. The home forwards were also quicker to the loose ball, and more adept at gaining possession from ruck and maul.

Eventually, pressure

was converted into points with a try by left wing Colin Phillips, converted by Hearn, who also kicked what turned out to be the winning penalty.

Ian Jones enjoyed an outstanding game for Llandovery, as did David Giles, but although they threw everything into attack during the last ten minutes, they were left to rue their missed chances in the first half.

DROVERS



● WINGING IN . . . Llandovery's Carwyn Davies was in try scoring form on Saturday but it wasn't enough to save his side from defeat.



Drovers lose winning habit

LLANDOVERY have lost their way in recent weeks and on Saturday suffered their first league defeat at the hands of Tenby United.

Both sides were far too tense, and some strange refereeing decisions, helped develop a niggling atmosphere.

Tenby took the lead after 10 minutes through a Ben Childs penalty. After Llandovery missed two penalties, Childs repeated the dose 15 minutes later, following a strange incident.

At a stoppage, the referee spotted two players

**Llandovery 3
Tenby 9**

wrestling on the ground. He spoke to both players and the penalised the Llandovery man for "not looking at him during the lecture.

Could this be a new law that has crept in, or a case of "unsporting behaviour" under Law 26!

A Hywel Jones penalty made the score 6-3 at half-time.

Playing into the wind in the second half, Llandovery faced a mammoth task, made worse by a third Childs penalty.

Llandovery's backs tried everything they knew during the final 15 minutes, but the Tenby defence held firm.

When Llandovery lost their fourth injured player, they had run out of replacements and hope of winning.

GREAT RECOVERY BY THE DROVERS

LLANDOVERY found themselves six points down within a minute of the start of their Heineken League clash against Aberavon Quins, having let their opponents in for a gift try.

If that was not bad enough, their captain and outside-half Carwyn Williams was on his way to hospital with a broken collar bone.

The long climb back into the match started 15 minutes later when Hywel Jones was successful with

**Aberavon Q. 9
Llandovery 12**

the second of his penalty attempts.

With partner Elfyn Jenkins back to his best form, co-flanker Chris Davies had an outstanding game in defence, and with

his clean line-out catching.

Llandovery had to 18-year-olds making their Heineken League debuts in the back-line, and they acquitted themselves well.

Chris Liptrot kicked well under pressure in defence, and one run by Matthew Allnutt, which started from his own line, very nearly brought a try in the opposite corner 100 yards upfield.

However, after a period of forward pressure, it was the big prop Eifion Evans,

who powered his way over for a try converted by Liptrot. This put Llandovery ahead, for the first time.

Ten minutes later the Quins equalised with a penalty.

The match looked to be heading for a draw when full-back Hywel Jones kicked a 45-metre penalty in injury time to gain two valuable points.

This should put them in good heart for their clash at home to Treorchy, kick-off 2.30pm.



Bruised, but not beaten!

Llandovery 15 Treorchy 3

LLANDOVERY'S forwards looked as if they had gone 12 rounds with Frank Bruno after this rugged Heineken League Division 3 clash with Treorchy on Saturday.

The visiting pack played well in the rucks and mauls, but the home front-row caused considerable problems in the scrum.

After weighing each other up for the first half-hour, the power of the Llandovery's scrummaging eventually paid dividends.

A series of scrums on the Treorchy line saw the visitors defending desperately before scrum-half Adrian Davies was able to dive in at the base of the scrum for a try converted by full-back Hywel Jones.

During this period, sound play by centre Eirian Jones gained large slices of ground through tactical kicking, but possible attacks were nullified by the defences.

In the second half, pressure by the Llandovery pack led to a defensive error. The Treorchy outside-half tried a little chip, which was sliced straight into the hands of Eirian Jones.

He gratefully set off towards the posts before giving a scoring pass to co-centre. Hywel Jones kicked an easier conversion.

An exchange of penalties were the only other

scores as Llandovery's defence held firm.

This hard earned victory will not lull the Drovers into a false sense of security for their long journey North to face Wrexham on Saturday.

Drovers just won't give up

JUST as they had done two weeks before against Aberavon Quins, Llandovery found themselves six points adrift and missing a key player in the opening stages of this match against Wrexham.

Chasing a high ball, centre Eirian Jones collided with an opponent and cracked his cheekbone. He was taken to hospital, for treatment to the injury.

Llandovery's gloom continued in the thick mist that descended when a floated pass was intercepted and allowed Wrexham to score a converted try.

A penalty by Chris Liptrot, and a similar effort for Wrexham, made the score 9-3 at half-time.

It looked as if Llan-

doverly would return empty handed from their long trip north. But, as they had done against Aberavon they hit-back, but this time with even greater success.

As the gloom lifted slightly, so did the spirits of the Llandovery forwards.

Once Llandovery had drawn level, through a try by Chris Davies, converted by Chris Liptrot, there was only one team in it

for the last 20 minutes.

A long range penalty by Hywel Jones, and two by Chris Liptrot took the score to 18-9.

Davies and Chris Liptrot, one of which was converted by Hywel Jones, put the icing on the cake for Llandovery.

The Drovers are now back in third place and level on points with the leading clubs.

Drovers gloom is lifted

Wrexham 9 pts Llandovery 28

Llandovery's injury pattern continued in this Heineken League game at Wrexham.

Chasing a high ball, centre Eirian Jones collided with an opponent and took no further part in the game, going to hospital with a cracked cheek-bone.

Llandovery's gloom continued, in the thick mist which had descended, when a floated pass was intercepted and Wrexham were six points up.

A penalty by Chris Liptrot and a similar effort for Wrexham made the score 9-3 at half time and it looked as if Llandovery would go back empty-handed after their journey up north.

The Llandovery forwards had other ideas however and as the gloom lifted slightly, so did their spirits.

In fact once they had drawn level through a try by Chris Davies converted by Chris Liptrot, there was only one side in it for the last twenty minutes.

One long range penalty by Hywel Jones and two by Chris Liptrot took the score to 18-9.

Then further tries by Adrian Davies and Chris Liptrot, one of which was converted by Hywel Jones put the icing on the cake and brought Llandovery back into third place, level on points with the leaders.

● Blaina's enforced rest last Saturday has at least given their walking woun-

ded time to recover for their vital clash at Llandovery on December 28.

Versatile backrow man Paul Hales is recovering from a knee strain, and, along with lock John Wilkins and hooker Paul McDonald, will be challenging for selection as the leaders take on last season's Division Four champions.

Blaina play at Cilfynydd in the Welsh Cup on Saturday and will be working hard on their fitness over the holiday period, with a couple of sessions planned at the all-weather pitch at Abertillery Leisure Centre, should the weather turn nasty.

Llandovery, anxious to avenge their 21-3 Cup defeat at Blaina earlier this season, could welcome back outside-half and captain Carwyn Williams, who damaged his shoulder against Aberavon Quins recently.

Last season's skipper Wyn Williams has called upon all his experience and motivating skills to keep Llandovery ticking over during Carwyn's absence.

Llandovery are seeking a fixture this Saturday and a number of their first-team squad could play in the annual Boxing Day match against Lampeter - just two days before the Blaina game.



Cracker in store

SATURDAY sees what should be a belated Christmas cracker when Llandovery entertain Heineken League Third Division leaders Blaina.

Llandovery could go to the top of the table if they beat Blaina in a match which has been given greater spice by Blaina's convincing Schweppes Cup win over Llandovery earlier in the season.

Some of the Llandovery players face a busy week as they may also be in the line-up for their annual Boxing Day Match against Lampeter on Thursday.

The home side may include outside-half and captain Carwyn Williams, who injured his shoulder against Aberavon Quins.

Tumble face a potentially tricky trip to mid-table Cilfynydd, who so far this season have failed to reproduce their form of last term.

Both fixtures were close affairs last season, with Tumble claiming the points on both occasions

with 10-3 and 10-9 wins.

Ystradgynlais will hope to put their heavy Schweppes Cup defeat against Pyle behind them when they travel to Kenfig Hill.

A win could put them up into third place, above Kenfig Hill. Kenfig will be without their speedy winger Paul Darke, who broke his leg against Tumble.

Points satisfy hungry fans!

DESPITE the satisfaction of two Heineken League points, Llandovery's supporters went home rather disappointed with the fare served up — rather like the cold turkey and Christmas pud on Boxing Day.

This was certainly a hard, absorbing battle up front with Llandovery's scrummaging power proving rather too strong for the Rumney eight, but the taller visitors shaded the lines-out.

The only score of the first-half was a well work-

**Llandovery 9
Rumney 3**

ed blind-side move from the base of the scrum.

Number eight Dai Giles picked up and fed scrum-half Adrian Davies, who in turn drew the defence to allow young winger

Richard Morgan to nip in for a try near the corner.

This was converted by Chris Liptrot with a finely-judged kick, after he and Hywel Jones had each failed with earlier penalty attempts.

Rumney came back after half-time with some combined forward and back play, but with the mid-field backs constantly turning back into the pack, these attacks were repelled by some fine Llandovery tackling.

A penalty goal by Hywel Jones seemed to make the game safe for Llandovery, only for Rumney skipper Terry Lee to bring his side back within reach with a similar effort.

Alas, Llandovery's talented back division waited in vain for a site of the ball, but two try saving tackles by Huw Protheroe and Hywel Jones, and fine defensive work by the pack and Adrian Davies, saw Llandovery through.



League shock for Drovers!

LLANDOVERY'S Heineken League promotion hopes suffered an unexpected blow when they were beaten by lowly Bonymaen on Saturday.

The Swansea side, second from bottom of the Third Division, shocked the Drovers with only their second league win of the season.

Although all is not lost for the Drovers, they cannot afford too many performances like this if they are to gain promotion to Division Two.

The visiting forwards went well for the first half-hour, but only had two Hywel Jones penalties to show for their domination.

**Bonymaen 19
Llandovery 9**

This lead was nullified when an attacking move broke down and Bonymaen right wing David Howells kicked through twice and showed a clean pair of heels as he scored a 90 metre try.

A penalty gave Bonymaen a 9-6 lead at half-time, with Llandovery wondering why they had not scored more points early on.

As the second half wore on, the game became a chapter of accidents for Llandovery.

First they tried to keep the game tight and take on the Bonymaen pack up front.

Then, too late in the game they tried to attack through their three-quarters, but as desperation crept into the Llandovery play, Bonymaen played on their mistakes and scored two further tries, one of which was converted.

Llandovery's only consolation in the second half

was a third Hywel Jones penalty.

On the whole this was a game that the Llandovery team will want to forget, and they will have plenty of time to do so as there is a month's break from Heineken league action.

In this time they may well wish to reflect on whether their tactics make the best use of the considerable talent available to them.

They will certainly have to be at their best when they return to action as they face a stiff task against much improved Mountain Ash.

Time to change the tactics?

Llandovery 9 pts Bonymaen 19

Llandovery travelled south to Bonymaen on Saturday and in the process lost their way in the Heineken League Division 3 title chase.

Although all is not lost, they cannot afford too many performances like this if they are to gain promotion to Division Two.

The Drovers' forwards went well for the first half-hour but only had two Hywel Jones penalties to show for their domination.

This lead was nullified when an attacking move broke down and Bonymaen right-wing David Howells kicked through twice and showed a clean pair of heels to the opposition to score a 90 yard try.

Another penalty gave Bonymaen a 9-6 lead at half-time with Llandovery wondering why they had not scored more points early on.

As the second half wore on the game became a

chapter of accidents for Llandovery. First they tried to keep the game tight and take on the Bonymaen pack up front.

Then, too late in the game, they tried to attack through their three-quarters. Meanwhile, as desperation crept into the Llandovery play, Bonymaen preyed on their mistakes and scored two further tries, one of which was converted.

On the whole this was a game that the Llandovery team will want to forget.

Llandovery have a break now until Sunday February 2 when they entertain Blaina in a match postponed from December 28.

Then comes a stiff task against much-improved Mountain Ash away.

In this time they may well wish to reflect on whether their tactics make the best use of the considerable talent available to them.



'MOUNTAIN' CONQUERED

AFTER a month's break from Heineken League action, the Drovers travelled to Mountain Ash with some trepidation since the home side had won their last six games after losing the first five.

However, Llandovery's recent friendlies against Kidwelly and Tumble had tuned them to a fine pitch.

And they needed all their defensive skills to keep out the 'Mount' in the first half.

Electing to play into a stiff breeze, the whole Llandovery team tackled well, and it took Mountain Ash 30 minutes to register their first score — a drop goal by number 10 Mark Bennett.

Turning around just three points down, Llandovery got back on level terms after 10 minutes

Mountain Ash 3 Llandovery 13

with an immense penalty by Hywel Jones from fully 50 yards.

Mountain Ash continued to monopolise the lines-out, but kept the ball close rather than spreading it, thus playing into Llandovery's hands and the tremendous strength of the visiting pack.

Mountain Ash had held the Llanelli eight just a fortnight previously, so they were certainly surprised by the power of their opponents' scrum-

maging.

Eventually this supremacy gave Llandovery the decisive score.

With only five minutes to go, and time running out, a scrum near the Mountain Ash line had their back row in two minds whether to stay down or not.

As a result they were pushed back over their line for number eight Nigel Clarke to score. Carwyn Williams converted.

And a fine move late in the game saw Llandovery round off the victory with another try by Clarke.

HYWEL PUNISHES A LATE MISTAKE

A MOMENT of ill-discipline just as time was running out, gave Llandovery's Hywel Jones the chance to win this Heineken League Third Division clash.

With every point of vital importance to both teams in the promotion stakes, the match was played under intense pressure, with neither side willing to give an inch.

Narberth played with the wind at their backs in the first half, and within 15 minutes took the lead when full-back Geraint Bowen kicked a simple penalty.

The Llandovery forwards were gaining the

Llandovery 6 Narberth 3

lions share of the ball, but the Narberth back row were very impressive, and full-back Bowen was kicking the ball an enormous distance with the wind at his back.

Neither set of backs were brought into play and this was a pity because Llandovery's Huw Thomas proved a dangerous attacker when given

the opportunity.

It was probably the scrummaging power of the home team which proved decisive and forced the Narberth scrum back.

Arwel Evans was deservedly given the match of the match award, but the whole Llandovery front row of David Thomas, Gerald Lewis and Evans, swung the match Llandovery's way.

Late in the first half Carwyn Williams dropped a goal to level the scores at half time.

With the game drifting

towards a draw, it was left to full back Hywel Jones to take the opportunity to win the game for Llandovery.

These two points, which Llandovery just about deserved, lifts the home team to third place in the table, level on points with second placed Blaina, who are ahead on try count.

Llandovery are now just two points behind top of the table Tenby United with a game in hand.

The two sides meet in a fortnight for what could be one of the most important matches of the season.



Promotion setback for Drovers

TENBY United inflicted their heaviest league defeat on visitors Llandovery on Saturday, and completed an impressive double in the bargain.

Although the visitors' eight battled bravely and out-scrummaged the home pack, they were given a lesson in speed to the breakdown, and how to win second phase possession.

Tenby 20 Llandovery 4

Against a strong wind, and 9-3 down with five minutes to go to half-time, the only complaint Llandovery had, was that they could have been awarded a penalty try after two collapsed scrums on the Tenby line.

The referee awarded the penalty first time and captain Carwyn Williams opted for another scrum.

The second collapse, with the home side retreating on their own line, was the most certain penalty try you are likely to see.

However the man that matters most — the referee — awarded another penalty!

Be that as it may, had Ben Childs been wearing his kicking boots, Tenby would already have been out of sight, instead he missed numerous penalties and conversions.

Tenby scored two more tries in the second half and Llandovery's efforts floundered on a rock-like defence, apart from a well worked try from replacement Stuart Doel.

If they are to win promotion Llandovery must win their next three games. It would be nice to achieve that target before meeting Blaina at the end of the league programme.

Llandovery suffer heaviest defeat

Tenby 20pts Llandovery 4

Tenby inflicted their heaviest League defeat on visitors Llandovery on Saturday and completed an impressive "double" in the bargain.

Although the visitors' eight battled bravely and out-scrummaged the home pack, they were given a lesson in speed to the point of breakdown and how to win second-phase possession.

Against a strong wind and 9-3 down with five minutes to go to half-time the only complaint Llandovery could have was that, after two collapsed scrums on the Tenby line, they should have been awarded a penalty try.

The referee awarded a penalty the first time and Captain Carwyn Williams opted for another scrum.

The second collapse with the home pack retreating on their own line was the most certain penalty try this writer has seen in many a long time — however the man that matters, the referee, awarded another penalty!

Be that as it may, if Ben Childs had had his kicking boots on, Tenby would have already been out of sight — he missed numerous penalties and conversions.

Tenby scored for more tries in the second half and Llandovery's efforts floundered on a rock-like

defence apart from a well-worked try for replacement Stuart Dole.

If they are to win promotion Llandovery must win the next three games. It would be nice to achieve that target before meeting Blaina twice at the end of the League programme.



Drovers return to winning form

LLANDOVERY returned to winning ways on Saturday with this convincing win over Heineken League Third Division strugglers Aberavon Quins.

This win means that the Drovers need just one win from their remaining four matches to ensure they are playing Second Division rugby next season.

A convincing first-half display produced tries for Adrian Davies and Richard Morgan, one of which was converted by skipper Carwyn Williams, who also kicked a penalty.

Entrusting the longer kicks to full-back Hywel Jones paid off — he kicked three penalties.

The only reply from the

Llandovery 22 Aberavon Quins 6

luckless Quins was a converted try.

Llandovery seemed to go off the boil during the second half after losing number eight Nigel Clarke through injury.

The Quins, aided by the wind, gained confidence, won more ball and exerted considerable pressure.

However, Llandovery have become noted for their defensive play, and none did better in the

loose than flanker Huw Protheroe.

Llandovery are currently holding the fourth and final promotion place, five points ahead of Treorchy, their next opponents, on March 28.

If the Drovers can return with two points, there'll be no stopping them, but a win for Treorchy would put the champagne on ice, although Llandovery will still have the cushion of a three point lead and a game in hand.

Bright future for Drovers

Llandovery Under-21 48 Welsh Agricultural College 0

A FAST-MOVING game which featured some scintillating moves, saw Llandovery Under-21 side show great promise in beating a team from the Welsh Agricultural College in Aberystwyth.

The WAC team contributed in no small measure to the enjoyment of the evening with some smart inter-passing of their own, but the home team were far too experienced for them both up front and in the backs.

None did better for the WAC than local youth product Aled Davies, who it is hoped, will be back for Llandovery next year.

Outstanding in the pack

for Llandovery was back-row forward Dylan Morgan.

It was both pleasing and promising for the future that Llandovery's squad consisted of local talent.

This is in contrast to some teams who seem to use the under-21 level to scour the countryside for talent from other clubs.

On Saturday Llandovery's Heineken

League team travel to Treorchy in search of the elusive points which will take them into Division Two next season.

The second team are in both cup semi-final and league play-off in the Llanelli and District League, while the youth team played Llandeilo on Tuesday in the Amman Valley Youth Cup semi-finals.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Drovers are made to wait

LLANDOVERY'S promotion hopes took a dent in this uncompromising Heineken League Division Three match at Treorchy on Saturday.

The Drovers' coach Stan Liptrot was unhappy with Treorchy's tactics describing some of the violent incidents as horrific. Claims that were vigorously denied by the home side.

But back with the rugby, the first half saw Treorchy playing with a stiff breeze.

Their forward power paved the way for the first converted try, which was followed by another minutes later from a high kick which forced a defensive lapse allowing the home full-back to score a well taken try.

Still, Llandovery held on until half-time, and 12-0 didn't seem too bad, as the Drovers would be playing with the wind in the second half.

However, disaster struck! A speculative kick towards touch by Treorchy bounced awkwardly upfield and out of reach of Llandovery's full-back. A kick and chase resulted in another converted try.

Two penalty kicks and a well taken try made the score 28-0.

Too late, Llandovery came back strongly in the last quarter with tries by Arwel Rowlands and David Giles with a power-

**Treorchy 28
Llandovery 10**

ful run for the line, one of which was converted by Hywel Jones.

Llandovery still need two points from their last three games to earn promotion. On Saturday they are home to Wrexham, and would welcome every possible support for this vital match.

Going up in the world



● **HIGH FLYERS:** Llandovery are on their way to the dizzy heights of the Heineken League Second Division, but it looks as if their line-out jumpers will be able to cope.

GOING UP IN FINE STYLE

THE MANNER of Llandovery's promotion clinching display against Wrexham on Saturday was the icing on the cake for coach Stan Liptrot as the team heads for Division Two of the Heineken league.

He told the Guardian: "I am obviously delighted because we played so well, it's nice to go up but it's even nicer to go up like that. It gives us a lot of confidence for next season."

And the coach has made it clear his side will not be allowed to become complacent in the second division — the next aim is to join the big boys in Division One.

"Our aim has never been to consolidate in a

**Llandovery 41
Wrexham 0**

new division. We aim to get in and get out as quickly as possible."

That would be an incredible achievement for a side which has won promotion in successive years — last time as champions.

"We have got a lot of work to do between now and training — a lot of planning for next sea-

son."

That may mean recruiting new players, but not with financial inducements, says Mr Liptrot.

"That's not because of our financial situation, but it is against the club's ethics. We don't want to pay players, but we do want to look after them."

Llandovery played like millionaires on Saturday, running in some of the best tries seen on the Church Bank ground.

The platform for the attacks were set up by the solid scrummaging and committed mauling for loose ball by the pack, with all eight doing ster-

ling work in this respect.

However, the Wrexham pack were far superior in the line-outs, but they failed to turn possession into points.

Six tries were scored by the backs through Arwel Rowlands (2); Huw Thomas (2); Alun Thomas and Carwyn Williams, with number eight Nigel Clarke adding another.

The five conversions were kicked by Carwyn Davies (2); Hywel Jones (2) and Carwyn Williams. Hywel Jones added a penalty.

If Llandovery win their remaining two matches they could finish runners-up in the Division.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams



● **GOING PLACES:** The Llandovery team which clinched promotion to Division Two of the Heineken League with a spectacular 41-0 win over Wrexham.

On the rampage



● **UNSTOPPABLE:** Llandovery's Arwel Evans pictured in determined mood during Saturday's Heineken League promotion clincher against Wrexham.



Lambs to the slaughter

IN this final Heineken League game of the season, the Drovers tamed the Lambs for the second week in succession.

Llandovery were 6-3 down at half-time but it was "Lambs to the slaughter" in the second half with Llandovery's forwards and backs combining well to weave intricate patterns in attack against a stern Blaina defence that eventually crumbled.

Against a highly-rated Blaina pack, the home

Llandovery 18 pts Blaina 6pts

front line of Dai Thomas, Gerald Lewis, Arwel Evans, Ian Jones and Wyn Williams worked extremely hard and came out on top in the scrum-mages, with the tireless back row of Chris Davies, Nigel Clarke and Elfyn Jenkins marauding in attack and defence.

Adrian Davies was a tower of strength at the base of the scrum, while master tactician and cap-

tain Carwyn Williams dictated play from No. 10 spot.

With the platform firmly in place, Llandovery launched its speedy threequarter-line of Richard Morgan, Huw Thomas, Alun Thomas and Arwel Rowlands and behind them Hywel Jones was rock-solid. In the second half, replacement Huw Protheroe fitted in to the plan perfectly.

Scorers for Llandovery were Hywel Jones (penalty), with tries by Elfyn Jenkins and Alun Thomas, both converted by Carwyn Williams, who also kicked a penalty.

The top four for promotion this year are Tenby (30 pts) Llandovery (26 pts), Blaina (24 pts) and Narberth (24 pts) with these four joining some of the more "fashionable" clubs in Division Two next season.

Sevens shocker

THE EXCELLENT Llandovery College Under-15 Invitation Sevens was won in thrilling style by Bishopston School, Swansea, who caused a huge upset by beating overwhelming favourites Millfield in the final.

Captained by Gordon Alderdice they beat Llandovery High School, Christ College, Brecon and Cwmtawe in the earlier rounds, but few spectators, including the president of the WRU believed Bishopston could overcome the talented Somerset side.

Indeed when Bishop-

ston lost their international centre Huw Thomas through concussion in the semi-final, the odds against a victory were even longer.

Gavin Lewis shook Millfield in the first minute with a try converted by Gareth Phillips, but Millfield looked as if they could squeeze through

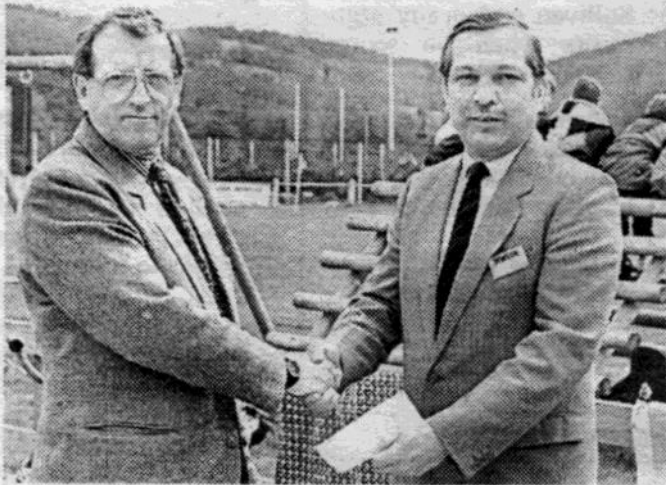
when they took a 10-6 lead.

But in the last seconds of normal time, Iwan Jones levelled the score at 10-10 with a great try.

And in the sudden death period of extra time it was Bishopston throwing everything at Millfield, who clinched a great victory with a Jeff Fuge try.



Cheque this out



● **JEWSON CHEQUE:** Jewson's Llandovery branch manager Laurence Blankley hands over a cheque for £800 to Llandovery RFC chairman Eifion Morgan. Jewson sponsored Saturday's match and will provide kit for the youth team next season.

Drovers end double hope

AMMANFORD were looking to follow up their Llanelli and District Sprintprinters Cup win by lifting the Presidents Cup — but their final opponents Llandovery had other ideas.

Ammanford started the match in determined fashion with their forwards again in tremendous form.

Outside-half Andrew Robinson had the chance to put Ammanford ahead, but was unlucky with two penalties.

Darren Parkin then mishandled the greasy ball with the line at his mercy and a certain try was lost.

Llandovery weathered the storm, and against the run of play scored the first

**Llandovery 19
Ammanford 10**

try when second-row Dafydd Thomas went over from a line-out on the Ammanford line. Full-back Carwyn Jones converted well from the touchline.

Ammanford took the game back to the Llandovery 22-metre line, and with the forwards, well led by prop Tom Mainwaring, forcing Llandovery to defend desperately, scrum-half

Wayne Evans stole away on the blind side to score an excellent try wide out.

Robinson failed to convert, leaving the score 6-4 to Llandovery at half time.

The second-half was a dour affair with the heavy ground taking its toll and causing play to become scrappy.

Outside-half Robinson put Ammanford into the lead with a 35 metre penalty with 15 minutes to go.

However, Llandovery started to show their superior fitness.

Full-back Carwyn Jones banged over an excellent 40 metre penalty to put them 9-7 ahead.

And within minutes he struck another 40 metre kick to make the score 12-7.

Ammanford, however were not finished, and with number eight Arfon Harries and prop Delme Davies leading the way, they stormed the Llandovery line.

They were rewarded when Robinson kicked a penalty to make the score 12-10 with minutes to go.

But Llandovery sealed their victory when number eight Stuart Hall scored a try in the corner.

And just to round things off Carwyn Jones struck a penalty in the last seconds to make the final score 19-10 to Llandovery.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams



● **WELL DONE . . .** Barry Williams and Gwyn Jones, of Llandovery, are congratulated on their selection to play for the Welsh Under-19 rugby side, following on from having played for Welsh schools and Welsh Youth respectively. Travel bags were presented to them by Llandovery's Barclays Bank branch manager Mr Mervyn Jones and deputy Mr David Davies.

Photo: John Jenkins, Llandovery.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1990-92 ww05

Courtesy Wyn Williams



● **SECONDS' SUCCESS . . .** Llandovery RFC's second team backed up the success of the Heineken League side with a couple of excellent achievements of their own. They beat Llanybydder to win the Towy Ford Llanelli and District Cup and Tregaron to win the Lady Howard president's cup.



● **GOOD HOSTS . . .** Llandovery's own magnificent seven were too good for the opposition in the club's Calor Gas Invitational Sevens. Here is the side which won through from 16 teams and beat Walsall 28-16 in the final.