



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams



Chris Davies will lead the Llandovery charge this season. Picture: Ralph Carpenter

Heineken League Division One

Llanelli:

Capt:- Rupert Moon

Coach:- Gareth Jenkins/Alan Lewis

Prospects:- Without doubt the best team in Wales, and have a great chance of retaining the Welsh Cup. But winning the League is about possessing the best squad, and that's why they'll again finish second behind Swansea.

Title Odds:- 11/4

Welsh Cup Odds:- 3/1

Division Two

Llandovery:

Capt:- Chris Davies

2nd XV Capt:- Stuart Doel

3rd XV Capt:- Martin Davies

Coach:- Stan Liptrott

Prospects:- Good enough to hold their own, and strike me as being a mid-table side.

Title Odds:- 14/1

Welsh Cup Odds:- 1,000/1



● IN TYPICAL POSE: Tumble's Arwel Davies sets his back moving again. This has been a familiar sight in West Wales rugby over the last 20 years.

Tips for the titles

Heineken League

Div 1 Champions:- Swansea

Div 2 Champions:- Duntvont

Div 3 Champions:- Mountain Ash

Div 4 Champions:- Tondur

West Wales

Sec A Champions:- Glynneath

Sec B Champions:- Morriston

Div B Champions:- Gowerton

Sec C Champions:- Penygroes

Div C Champions:- Crynant

Pembrokeshire

Champions:- Whitland

Sec. A Champions:- Llandovery

Sec B Champions:- Pontyberem

Sec C Champions:- Hendy

Sec D Champions:- Llangennech

Sec E Champions:- Llanwrtyd Wells

Welsh Cup Winners:- Llanelli

Tovali West Wales Cup Winners:- Pontarddulais

Jewsons Pembrokeshire & Dist Cup:- Tenby Utd

Pembrokeshire Power Cup :- Aberystwyth

S'Print Llanelli & Dist Cup Winners:- Tumble



Heineken adventure continues

LLANDOVERY'S incredible Heineken League adventure continues on Saturday when they start their Second Division campaign against former first class whipping boys Penarth.

It should be a great occasion at the Church Bank playing fields, as the Drovers begin their attempt to complete a fairy-tale rise into the elite of Welsh rugby.

Realistically everything points to a season of consolidation for the Drovers, but who would bet against them confounding the critics again.

Tumble also face new challenges as they begin a season without veteran scrum-half Arwel Davies, and settle into a higher division after winning last season's Division Four title.

Ystradgynlais will be hoping the experience gained last season will stand them in good stead against the influx of new fourth division teams.

Among the new boys are Vardre, who will take heart from the success experienced the other West Wales teams in the league.

THE DREAM CONTINUES!

LLANDOVERY made a dream start to their Heineken League Division Two campaign on Saturday.

Penarth had no answer to the Drovers' forward power, and the cut and thrust of their three-quarters tore the Seaside's defence to ribbons.

A disappointing Penarth side only performed in fits and starts through forward drives supported by their lively scrum-half.

The visitors full back missed three penalties in

**Llandovery 39
Penarth 0**

the first half — a complete contrast to home full-back Hywel Jones.

His kicking was accuracy personified, converting four out of the five tries scored, and landing two penalties for a personal tally of 19 points.

Llandovery's first half

tries were scored by right wing Arwel Rowlands, Chris Davies in the corner, and Hywel Jones, after a Huw Thomas break.

All the tries were converted and the 21-0 half-time scoreline looked promising.

Two second half penalties were followed by an excellent try from Alun Thomas. The initial breakthrough was made by Arwel Rowlands, and the movement covered three-quarters of the field.

By now, Llandovery were enjoying a good supply of line-out ball, and superior scrummaging power enabled hooker Gerald Lewis to take three strikes against the head in the second half.

The last one giving number eight David Giles the opportunity to force himself over in the corner.

The nervous wait for the start of the season was over, and Llandovery now look forward to stiffer opposition at Tredegar on Saturday.

Drovers wake up

LLANDOVERY suffered a rude awakening from their Heineken league dream when they lost to Tredegar on Saturday.

Some untypical bad tackling allowed Tredegar into a 15-3 lead at the interval.

David Giles, the Llandovery number eight, who was enjoying an excellent match, was forced to leave the field with a rib injury after 30 minutes.

He was replaced by Huw Protheroe, who was a bundle of energy and had a try disallowed half-way through the second half.

However, the biggest disappointment for the visitors, and the turning point of the match, came

**Tredegar 23
Llandovery 13**

immediately after half-time.

The referee couldn't have recovered from his half-time siesta, as he didn't see Arwel Rowlands touch down in the corner before being bundled into the corner flag.

The touch judge, who was on the spot, certainly seemed to think it was a try, for he did not indicate otherwise — a pity the referee did not see fit to consult him.

Undaunted, Llandovery pulled back to 18-13 with some spirited attacks and a well worked try, only for a defensive slip to let Tredegar in for a late try.

All Llandovery's points were scored by full-back Hywel Jones, thanks to a try, conversion and two penalties.

Llandovery's second, third and youth side's gained convincing wins, scoring 160 points between them!

On Saturday, Llandovery entertain Blaina, who will be all out for their first win after losing narrowly to Ebbw Vale and Abertillery.



Llandover go second

IN A GAME full of excitement, played at a fast pace on a hot September afternoon, Llandover emerged convincing winners at the end of this Heineken League Second Division clash.

But victory only came after being 10-3 down at the interval, against a Blaina side missing several players due to a wedding.

Blain's only try, after 20 minutes, was a dubious affair as the ball clearly went forward before it was touched down.

This raised the question among Llandover supporters as to why referees don't consult with their equally qualified, and better placed touch judges,

**Llandover 21
Blaina 10**

when they are unsighted?

A penalty awarded against stamping, kicked by Hywel Jones, was Llandover's only response in the first half, which also saw Blaina land a long range penalty.

Turning round with the breeze at their backs, Llandover transformed the game into their favour within minutes.

The ever-present Chris Davies followed up an up-and-under to score a try which Hywel Jones converted.

Llandover scored again when Alun and Huw Thomas tore huge holes in the Blaina defence allowing skipper Davies to score another try.

Jones hit the post with the conversion, but he enjoyed better luck when he was on target with two penalties to bring his

personal tally to 11 points.

Man of the match Chris Davies was outstanding in attack and defence, but Llandover had to pay a price in this hard-fought match as they had to replace three injured players before running out winners.

On Saturday, second placed Llandover travel to face fourth placed Dunvant, who are riding high after beating Abertillery convincingly on Saturday.



Luck deserts depleted Drovers

Dunvant 21 pts Llandovery 3

LLANDOVERY supporters trooped away from Broadacre, Dunvant on Saturday amid mutterings of team selection, exchange of referees and the vagaries of kicking form.

Llandovery missed 4 penalty attempts, one of them hitting the upright and bouncing outwards.

Mark Thomas on the other hand was successful with six penalty attempts, one of which struck an upright and bounced the right way for Dunvant.

The killer blow came, however, well into the second half; the 6-0 interval score had become 9-3 when the Dunvant scrum-half's pass had bounced out of reach of his half-back partner.

Up stepped No. 15

Dean Evans to retrieve the situation and drop a superb goal left-footed from fully 40 yards.

With scraps of possession, Llandovery tried to use the running game to try to turn defence into attack but Dunvant's defence stood firm.

The also had most of the possession from full line-outs whereas Llandovery benefited from Ian Jones' skill in the shortened line.

Outstanding in the loose play was hooker Barry Williams and play was even in the set scrums, but with Tenby as the visitors to Church Bank on Saturday, Llandovery's supporters are hoping for full availability and, with a return to full strength, a return to a winning formula.

Llandovery skipper Chris Davies gave his side the lead after 10 minutes after scrum-half Marcus Olsen had neatly chipped ahead after rare line-out possession.

Hywel Jones converted his captain's try and the score stayed at 7-0 until half-time.

Tenby were not to be denied, and after a Gavin Scotcher penalty, reserve right wing Neil Trueman took his chance well.

After scrum-half Mike Griffiths broke on the blind side, the wing ran strongly at an angle to pierce the home defence.

With limited possession, and having to play into the wind, Llandovery's backs found it hard to break out from their own half.

And despite threatening runs from Arwel Rowlands and Hywel Jones, Tenby's defence remained as solid as a rock.

On Saturday Llandovery travel to take on Cross Keys in an attempt to crack the home side's 100 per cent record.

Luck goes against the Drovers

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The killer blow came well into the second half, with the score at 9-3. The Dunvant scrum-half's pass bounced out of the reach of his partner's hands. Up stepped full-back Dean Evans to retrieve the situation by gathering the ball and dropping a superb left-footed goal from fully 40 metres.

Living on scraps of possession, Llandovery tried

**Dunvant 21
Llandovery 3**

to use the running game to try and turn defence into attack, but Dunvant's defence stood firm.

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Outstanding in loose play was hooker Barry Williams, and play was even in set scrums.

But with Tenby as the visitors to Church Bank on Saturday, Llandovery's supporters are hoping for full availability amongst the players, and that a return to full strength brings a return to winning ways.

So close for the Drovers

TENBY eventually emerged winners of this eagerly awaited clash between last season's top two teams in the Heineken League third division.

The victory was achieved by the narrowest of margins, but the visitors missed three penalty attempts during the first half as they played into the wind.

**Llandovery 7
Tenby 8**

Llandovery relied on their defensive skills to keep the visitors out before the interval.



Keys unlock Llandovery

LLANDOVERY came to grief at Pandy Park on Saturday, crashing against a powerful Cross Keys outfit who boast a 100 per cent Heineken League second division record.

The Drovers elected to play into a strong gusting wind and held out reasonably well, conceding an early try and another near the end of the half.

However, in between they gave away three penalties, for throwing the ball into touch, off-side and throwing a punch, giving Cross Keys a 21-0 half time lead.

The wind advantage in the second half did not help the visitors, and with the Keys moving the ball from one side of the field to the other, and then back again, they created many overlaps.

Cross Keys 50 Llandovery 19

All that Llandovery could do was try to plug the gaps with some desperate tackling.

Four tries were conceded during this period, and with Mark Fleet being successful with all but one of his kicks, the score soon reached the half century.

Llandovery's David Giles was off the field for 15 minutes receiving stitches to a cut head and eventually had to leave the field again to be re-

placed by Huw Protheroe.

Not to be outdone in this free-scoring game, Llandovery came back strongly during the last 10 minutes.

They scored three excellent tries through Hugh Thomas, Alan Thomas and Marcus Olsen, two of which were converted by Hywel Jones.

Young hooker Barry Williams had another outstanding game, prominent in loose play and putting in some telling tackles.

This Saturday, seventh placed Llandovery, entertain the team immediately above them, Ebbw Vale.

Getting better

THIS was a far better performance by Llandovery who were unfortunate not to gain at least one point, which was denied them by a late drop goal.

In fact, the visitors could not have complained if the Drovers had come away with a win, in what was a scrappy, and at times, niggly encounter.

Llandovery 3 Ebbw Vale 6

The referee constantly had to intervene between the warring factions, and some of his many penalty decisions were quite inexplicable.

The home line-out forwards competed well, with David Giles and Ian Jones excelling in this phase of play.

The scrummaging too was of high quality, with the front row of Arwel Evans, Barry Williams and Eifion Evans superb, giving their opposite numbers plenty to think about.

The home eight were even pushing their opponents and disrupting their scrums, with one crucial strike against the head in defence on their line late in the second half.

One penalty by Jason Strange for off-side was Ebbw Vale's only score during an early period of pressure. Home full back Hywel Jones replied with a similar effort.

The scores stayed locked together until Strange, after missing a comparatively easy penalty, made amends with a drop goal to snatch a rather fortunate late victory for Vale.



Drovers run out of steam

LLANDOVERY were forced to make a number of changes for Saturday's Heineken League Division Two clash at Abertillery, especially amongst the backs.

However, they were seven points up after five minutes with what turned out to be the try of the day.

Quick service from scrum-half Adrian Williams, and a long pass from Carwyn Williams, enabled full-back Jeremy Rowe to feed left wing Matthew Allnutt. He waltzed past three defenders on a 40 yard corkscrew run to the posts.

Two penalties and a try saw the home side take the lead, but determination by Adrian Williams

**Abertillery 31
Llandovery 14**

earned a try which was again converted by Jeremy Rowe.

However, another penalty by Abertillery meant that the sides turned around at half-time with the scores level at 14 all.

With Llandovery being penalised at regular intervals, Abertillery outside-half Mark Williams made them pay with a fourth penalty, three them were give for offside!

Still at 17-14 down,

Llandovery were still in the game going into the last quarter, but they found themselves having to play deep inside their own half.

In the end the pressure put on by Abertillery paid off with two converted tries, but the final score was slightly flattering to them.

This Saturday, Llandovery entertain Glamorgan Wanderers at Church Bank for what should be an entertaining match. Llandovery need to win this match, and the Blaina game a fortnight later, in order to move up the table.

Drovers hit back in style

LLANDOVERY returned to form in spectacular style against Glamorgan Wanderers, one of Heineken League Division Two's promotion candidates.

The drovers had suffered five defeats in a row before this match, and many must have suspected this would be their sixth against third placed Wanderers.

In an evenly matched first half, the only score, came from an early Hywel Jones penalty.

The Wanderers were dominating the lines-out, and it came as no surprise when they took the lead through a Chris Norman try, converted by Bebb.

Llandovery's excellent back row once more clicked into action and took the game back to the Wanderers.

England Under-21 scrum-half Marcus Olsen hit back with a try converted by Hywel Jones.

The Drovers clinched the win when referee Chris Jones awarded them a penalty try ten minutes from the end.

Now that they have regained their winning habit, the Drovers must wait until November 28 before they play again in the league because of the Australian tour.

Third division leaders Mountain Ash cruelly snatched victory from Tumble's grasp with a try by former Wales full-back Jonathan Mason five minutes from time.

The Magpies had dominated up front only to see the former Pontypridd star claim a try in each half to win the match.

For all their forward power, Tumble could only manage to score two penalties through the boot of Simon Lewis.

Tumble now lie in seventh place with four wins from nine games. They too must take a break for the Australian tour, but will be back in action on November 14.

HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

FEW CLUBS visit Central Park and come away with a win, but this was Llandovery's fourth win against Blaina in two seasons of Heineken League rugby.

Both sides took the first 30 minutes to size each other up and, with both sides nervous of losing in cold, wet, blustery conditions, the game was rather scrappy at times.

First, each side missed a penalty, then each side succeeded with their kicks and Blaina then went into the lead for the second time at 6-3.

Immediately, Llandovery with a move from the base of a scrum, David Giles broke and fed scrum-half Marcus Olsen, who passed back inside for the number eight to score a try converted by Hywel Jones to make the half-time score 10-6 to the visitors.

Blaina gained the lion's share of possession from the line-out, and during a purple patch, they kicked a penalty and scored an unconverted try to take the lead. Deri Evans scor-

**Blaina 14
Llandovery 22**

ing all their points.

Things were looking bleak for Llandovery at this stage, as David Giles was injured and had to leave the field.

However, the Llandovery pack lasted the pace much better than the home eight.

Matchwinner Hywel Jones kicked a penalty, and then, from a weak clearance, he repeated last season's feat of dropping a goal from 50 yards, which proved to be the turning point of the game.

Two more penalties from Jones gave him a haul of 17 points. But a much more convincing all-round performance will be needed at Church Bank on November 28, if Llandovery are to surprise Narberth and climb up the table.



● **ON TARGET:** Llandovery's Huw Jones, who contributed 17 points to his side's victory at Blaina on Saturday.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams

TOUGH TASK AHEAD

LLANDOVERY face a tough task on Saturday when they entertain Narberth, who are currently second in the Heineken League Second Division.

The visitors have lost only once this season and have conceded only 60 points in their 10 games to date.

Llandovery need the win to avoid the gap between them and the top six teams opening up any further.

Seventh place Llandovery are three points adrift from the Tenby, the team immediately above them.

But if any side in the second division are capable of causing an upset on their day it's Llandovery.

Drovers waste chances

THIS was a game full of excitement right up until the end, where Llandovery created chances which they failed to capitalise upon.

Centres Huw and Alun Thomas created openings, but the final passes seemed to go astray.

**Llandovery 6
Narberth 12**

Wing Arwel Rowlands also made some penetrating runs when the opposition kicked through to him.

Both Martin Rees and Nigel Clarke came close to scoring in the final nail-biting minutes.

But in the end, the order of the boot won the day — four penalties from Steven Pearce beating two by Hywel Jones.

For a change, Llandovery were winning plenty of line-out ball, and they were on top for long periods in the set scrums.

After taking the lead in the tenth minute, they found themselves 6-3 down at half-time, although they had done most of the attacking.

The referee was having trouble in interpreting the law on collapsed scrums, and in the end appeared to alternate the penalties to either side.

It was a pity a try could not have decided the issue, rather than a lottery of who had the kickable penalties.

However, the defences were on top. Narberth, in particular, had to defend frantically in the final minutes as Llandovery launched wave after wave of attacks on their line.

Narberth's full-back was solid under the high ball, as had Hywel Jones in the earlier stages.

All in all, Narberth breathed a sigh of relief when the final whistle was blown to end a very hard and keenly contested match.

Drovers back on track

LLANDOVERY were back to winning ways on Saturday, bringing back two points from their match with the much improved "Seasiders".

This was a gutsy performance, particularly in the second half when they had to defend for long periods against a strong driving back row.

**Penarth 8
Llandovery 16**

unnecessary self inflicted pressure.

However it was the Llandovery backs who put together the creative play, only for unsure touch finding to put them under

Llandovery took the lead after three minutes from a Hywel Jones penalty after a collapsed scrum.

In fact, the scrum pressure was so great that Llandovery went further into the lead from a push-over try scored by young number eight Dylan Morgan.

After Llandovery were off-side at a ruck and lost 10 yards through disputing the decision, Penarth had an easy penalty to pull back to 3-8.

However, Llandovery were able to increase their lead on the stroke of half-time. A well worked move

down the flank saw prop Dai Thomas on hand to score a try.

Both sides had their chances in the second half, but strong Llandovery tackling kept the home side out until injury time when an overhead pass resulted in a Penarth try on the left.

All-in-all, Llandovery were well satisfied with this victory to put them in good heart for Saturday's SWALEC Cup match at Ystradgynlais.

PENYBANC ARE TOPS!

PENYBANC were worthy winners in this Llanelli and District Section E top of the table clash.

Lyn Jenkins opened the scoring for Penybanc with a try converted by Steve Williams.

A further try was scored by Steve Williams after some pressure on Llandovery's line. Williams converted himself.

Just before half-time, Steve Williams scored his second, which he also

**Llandovery Thirds 11
Penybanc 26**

converted for a 21-0 half time lead.

To their credit, Llandovery ran the ball at every opportunity, and scored their first try 20 minutes into the second half. The conversion was a success.

They scored another try, this time unconverted, after some bad tackling from Penybanc.

However, Penybanc scored their fourth try after a long period of pressure on Llandovery's line. Lindsey Stamp went over in the corner to round off a fine game of open rugby on a heavy pitch.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Drovers tread carefully

LLANDOVERY will be hoping to improve their Heineken League Division Two position when they take on bottom of the table Tredegar on Saturday.

But Llandovery will not forget that Tredegar's only win in the league this season came when the two sides met early in the

term.

That day Tredegar came out on top by 23-13, but the Drovers will point to the fact that they lost the outstanding David Giles early on, and had an Arwel Rowlands try mysteriously disallowed.

In the third division Tumble face a tough test when they meet second placed Pontypool United.

When they sides met earlier in the season the Magpies were only just edged out 10-6.

Ystradgynlais will be hoping to strengthen their position amongst the leaders in Division Four when they take on fourth

from bottom Cilfynydd.

But looking at the weather forecast, secretary Keith Phillips says there is no certainty the game will go ahead. Fans are advised to check with the club first.

Vardre will be hoping to move away from the lower reaches of the fourth division if the weather allows them to travel to North Wales to face Ruthin.

Back in September Vardre overwhelmed the bottom of the table side by 45-7.

● Llandovery will be at home to Tondy in the next round of the SWALEC Cup on January 23, and not away as was previously published.

Drovers make Tredegar pay

TREDEGAR'S only Heineken league win of the season came when these two sides met early in the season. But on Saturday, Llandovery were determined their opponents would not be allowed to complete the double.

Played on a bitterly cold day on the Castle Ground, the Drovers eventually emerged with a comfortable win after a closely contested first half.

The home side scored their first try after 10 minutes when left-wing Arwel Rowlands came infield on the burst at an angle which split the defence and resulted in right wing Martin Rees scoring in the

**Llandovery 28
Tredegar 7**

corner.

Hywel Jones converted with a beautiful kick from the touchline. Just before half-time, he added a 40 yard penalty to make the score 10-0.

In between, Llandovery survived a long period of pressure by the Tredegar pack, but a tight defence held firm.

Soon after half-time David Giles scored a try from a Marcus Olsen kick ahead, and this was followed by a fine 40-yard touchline run by Arwel Rowlands for a try converted by Hywel Jones.

The only reply from Tredegar was a fine combined forward effort resulting in a try 10 minutes from the end by their strong number eight John Williams. This was converted by Andrew Green.

But Hywel Jones, the home full-back, was by now stroking the ball with a cultured right foot, and landed two more penalties to take his match tally to

13 points and his season's total past the 100 mark.

Outstanding in attack for Llandovery were Marcus Olsen and Arwel Rowlands, with hooker Wyn Morgan always in the thick of things up front.

In defence the whole team tackled with determination and the win should give the team every confidence for 1993.

This will certainly be needed for the next league game, which is at home to undefeated Dunvant on January 16. On Saturday Llandovery travel to the Gnoll to take on First Division Neath in a friendly.



Taking on the league's best

WITH a break in their league programme, Llandovery took on the very ambitious alternative of playing two clubs who have won the Heineken League first Division title.

At St Helens on Wednesday evening they tackled a young Swansea side full of ambition, many of whom played in the club's league match on Saturday.

Although Swansea took an early 7-0 lead, Llandovery came back strongly and scored tries through Alun Thomas and Dylan Morgan, one of which was converted by Hywel Jones.

The score was locked at 12-12 when a dropped pass was all that prevented Llandovery from taking a winning lead just before

the end.

On Saturday, Neath paid Llandovery the tribute of fielding their strongest available XV at the Gnoll.

After 25 minutes the score was Paul Thorburn 15 Llandovery 0, but with the wind in the second half, Llandovery pulled back to 23-13 at one stage.

One plus point was that Llandovery's pack proved they can scrummage with the best — they pushed the Neath pack back over their line for number eight David Giles to crash over for a try.

This was followed by the best try of the match, scored by full-back Arwel Rowlands after a 50 metre touchline run with Neath players in hot pursuit.

Outside-half Jeremy Rowe also kicked a penalty, but in the end Neath's forward power drove them to a 40-13 victory.

Llandovery took the opportunity to give most of their squad an outing and now look forward to the long awaited return match with Dunvant on Saturday.

Drovers can't stop Dunvant

LLANDOVERY won the toss and decided to play into the teeth of a gale force wind in the first-half of this match against unbeaten Heineken League Division Two leaders Dunvant.

The Swansea side exerted pressure throughout the half, and scored as early as the fifth minute, through experienced scrum-half Chris Hutchings.

A penalty and a converted try were Dunvant's other scores, and the question asked at half-time was whether 15 points would be enough?

The answer was soon evident as the Dunvant pack took control in the second half with Hutchings at their heels doing all the cleaning up

**Llandovery 0
Dunvant 15**

work.

Llandovery had their chances, but two long range penalty attempts went wide of the posts.

The best move of the match saw Llandovery start an attack on the right hand side of the field on halfway. It ended with Llandovery all but scoring in the left hand corner. Centre Huw Thomas was over the line, but was recalled for what the referee saw as a marginally forward pass.

Added to this, the fact that the referee made an error on a point of law from a kick off, which put Llandovery under pressure, the man with the whistle was not "flavour of the month" with the home supporters.

However, on the day, there was no doubt that Dunvant coped far better with the difficult conditions than Llandovery, who must now pull out all the stops at home to Tondy on Saturday, as they try to earn a place in the last 16 of the SWALEC Cup.



Bring on Bridgend

LLANDOVERY'S last gasp win over Tondy has been "rewarded" with a trip to take on Clive Norling's resurgent Bridgend side in the SWALEC Cup sixth round on February 27.

Drover's secretary Roland Griffiths travelled to Cardiff on Monday night hoping for a home draw, but it wasn't to be as they were paired with the first division side.

After the draw Mr Griffiths told the Guardian: "We were hoping for a home draw. At this stage it doesn't matter who you get because you know its going to be hard."

"But we will go to Bridgend and put up a good show. They have

been improving in the last month, while we are doing quite well and are hoping to build up for the match. But I have to say the league is our priority."

The sides met in the competition back in 1990 when Bridgend won at a mud covered Brewery Field.

Mr Griffiths is hoping for better conditions this time: "It is a fallacy that bad weather brings the big clubs down to the level of the lower clubs."

"We would prefer a running game, so we will be hoping for an improvement in the weather."

After Cardiff's experience against St Peter's, Bridgend will field their strongest possible side.

One consolation for Llandovery, is that Bridgend are the Guardian Sports Editor's tip as dark horses for the cup — that should make Llandovery favourites for the tie!

Reaching the sixth round means Llandovery

will be one of the six seeds for next year's competition.

But it almost wasn't to be as Llandovery had to pull off the Houdini act of the season when they snatched victory out of the jaws of defeat in a nail biting injury time finish to their fifth round tie.

Tondy kicked off with the benefit of a gale force wind at their backs, but Llandovery were first to score through a try by scrum-half Marcus Olsen.

With play in the first half fairly even, Llandovery won a good share of line-out ball, but Tondy

full-back Mark Watts kept popping penalties over at regular intervals.

He kicked four penalties in all to take the score to 12-5 to the visitors at half-time.

Now with the wind behind them, it would be Llandovery's turn! But the Tondy pack showed Llandovery what tactics to use playing into the wind.

They kept the ball tight and used the rolling maul to good effect. This denied Llandovery possession as the minutes ticked away.

The turning point came when Tondy's hooker

Andrew Thomas was sent off for stamping. Hywel Jones kicked the ensuing penalty.

However, even against 14 men, the match-winning try eluded Llandovery as their pack was encamped on the Tondy line for the last 10 minutes.

With play two minutes into injury time, Llandovery pushed Tondy's seven back to the try line. When the ball skidded out, Olsen was over in a flash to score the winning try, converted by Hywel Jones.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SATURDAY

AFTER the excitement and glamour of last week's SWALEC cup matches, its back to the bread and butter of Heineken League action for local clubs.

Llandovery will be hoping to come back down to earth following their cup win over Tondy and their subsequent pairing with Bridgend in the sixth round.

Their immediate attention switches west where they must travel to take on Tenby United.

Meanwhile, Tumble will be hoping to bounce back from the disappointment of losing to Newbridge when they take on Bonymaen, but they were encouraged by their performance against the first division side.

Championship chasing Ystradgynlais will be hoping to open up a clear

advantage at the top of the Fourth Division when they take on old West Wales rivals Carmarthen Quins at home.

Meanwhile Vardre will be hoping to put their defeat at Ruthin behind them when they entertain Kidwelly.

Welsh Brewers West Wales rugby Union fixtures for Saturday, January 30:

Section A — Amman United v Waunarlwydd; Bryncoch v Trimsaran; Felinfoel v Pontyberem; Pontarddulais v Glynneath; Seven Sisters v Carmarthen Athletic.

Section B — Abercrave v

Newcastle Emlyn; Ammanford v New Dock Stars; Bynea v Llandybie; Gorseinon v Cwmgwrach; Morriston v Brynaman.

Division B — Cwmgors v Resolven; Furnace United v Penclawdd; Hendy v Llangennech; Llangennech v Laugharne; Loughor v Gowerton.

Section C — Burry Port v Ystalyfera; Cefneithin v Tonna; Lampeter Town v Penygroes; Skewen v Cwmllynfell; Tygroes v Mumbles.

Division C — Alltwn v Trebanos; BP Llandarcy v Swansea Uplands; Glais v Pontardawe; Llanybydder v Llanelli Wanderers; Pontyates v Crynant.

No surprise for fans

CONTRARY to what you might have heard on BBC 2's Rugby Special Wales on Sunday, this win by Llandovery at Tenby was not a surprise.

At least it was not a surprise to the Drovers' supporters, and keen followers of form in the second division — Llandovery are playing extremely well in the second half of the season.

In an evenly contested first half, Tenby had the "advantage" of playing down the slope in the first

**Tenby 0
Llandovery 7**

half.

With Hywel Jones in splendid form under the high ball, and with forwards and backs tackling well, Llandovery were able to repel the Tenby attacks.

However, if Tenby had

taken their chances in the first half they would have deservedly taken the lead.

The second half told a different story, and the longer the game progressed, the stronger the Llandovery pack seemed to get.

They scrummaged superbly, won a fair share of line-out ball in competition with Tenby's Rhodri Jones, and in the loose the back row tackled like tigers.

Eventually the break through came mid-way through the second half, when the half backs moved the ball to inside centre Huw Thomas, who made a fine break to hand on to co-centre Arwel Rowlands, who touched down for a fine try.

This was converted by Hywel Jones, and by the end there was no doubt that Llandovery had emerged worthy winners.

The result leaves Llandovery in sixth place in the second division table.



Drovers take a Tumble

FORMER Llanelli flanker Iwan Jones made an impressive debut for Tumble as his new team beat Llandovery in a friendly at home on Friday night.

In a match which saw both sides made a number of changes from their Heineken League line-ups, the visitors opened up a 7-0 lead through a try by number-eight Dylan Morgan and a conversion by Hywel Jones.

In the second-half,

Tumble staged a fine recovery. Hooker Adrian Thomas set them on their way with a try, and Eifion Davies put over a penalty 15 minutes from time to settle matters.

New signing Jones looked sharp and hungry for the ball. His undoubted class will be an asset to the Magpies as they put together a fine all round team.

● On Saturday, Llandovery entertain Cross Keys and Tumble are also home to Aberavon Quins.

Stirling effort proves all in vain

THE Drovers travelled to Scotland and played Scottish Division One side Stirling County on the eve of the International match and gave an excellent account of themselves although

Stirling County RFC 24 pts Llandovery 10

depleted, particularly at forward.

Down ten points to nil at half-time, they fought back to 10-all before

going down in the dying minutes to two tries engineered by the powerful Stirling pack.

Despite losing numer-

ous strikes against the head in the scrums, the Llandovery backs counter attacked with some brilliant interpassing, involving forwards and backs and resulting in the best try of the match.

Young David Bancroft fitted in well in the 2nd row and strove hard at the line out and Jeremy Rowe was quite outstanding at counter attacking moves from the full-back position.

Drovers impress

Stirling County 24

Llandovery 10

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Young David Bancroft fitted in well in the second row and strove hard in the line-out, whilst Jeremy Rowe was quite outstanding on the counter attack from full-back.



Happy to be underdogs

LLANDOVERY will travel to Bridgend on Saturday, treating the SWALEC Cup sixth round tie as just another match, says spokesman Roland Griffiths.

The Drovers are grateful there has been no great media hype in the run up to the game, they are happy to start as firm underdogs with no pressure of expectancy.

Third Division St Peters showed the mighty can be toppled, but that result has done no favours for Llandovery.

Following Cardiff's shock exit in the last round of the cup, Bridgend are unlikely to make the same mistake by fielding a weakened side.

Mr Griffiths told the Guardian: "We are happy we have not had a big build up to the game in

the media. It suits us better. Bridgend can do all the worrying instead. We are treating this the same as any other match."

Llandovery are not making any rash predictions about emulating St Peter's giant killing act against the side managed by world famous referee Clive Norling.

More realistically Mr Griffiths says: "We are looking forward to the match and I am sure the boys will give a good account of themselves.

"Bridgend are a much improved side to what they were a few months ago. They have got a lot of

good young players."

The two sides met in the cup back in 1990, when Bridgend ran out winners on a mud covered pitch.

Llandovery say they are hoping the weather will stay dry for Saturday, giving their dangerous backs a chance to run at the First Division side.

Llandovery are also hoping for plenty of support to travel to Bridgend to support the club on one of the biggest days in its history.

This is the furthest Llandovery have gone in the competition since they were knocked out at home against Llanelli in the eighties.

To reach this stage of the competition they have

already beaten the top two sides in the fourth division.

After beating Ystradgynlais 10-0, they narrowly beat Tondy with a try by Marcus Olsen deep into injury time.

Even if Llandovery go no further in this year's competition, they are guaranteed to be one of the 16 seeds for next season's competition.

CUP ADVENTURE IS FINALLY OVER

AFTER reaching the last 16 of the SWALEC Cup, Llandovery found themselves shepherded out on Saturday by a very efficient and impressive Bridgend side.

Bridgend managed two tries in the first half — one of these coming as a result of a dropped pass by Llandovery on their own line.

Two conversions and two dropped goals took the score to 20-0.

At this stage all was not lost, but some uncharacteristic missed penalties and missed tackles saw the score reach flattering proportions of 41-0, following three more con-

**Bridgend 41
Llandovery 0**

verted tries in the second half.

Outstanding for Bridgend were internationals Robert Howley, David Bryant and Luc Evans, while for Llandovery Marcus Olsen, David Giles and Arwel Rowlands caught the eye.

As always, skipper Chris Davies tackled his

heart out throughout the match.

The whole Llandovery team gave their all, but missing vital players in key positions proved too much of a handicap.

Next weekend's international break gives Llandovery the chance to pick themselves up and dust themselves down and prepare for the final run in of five league games to consolidate their position in the middle of the table.



Poor Drovers let themselves down

LLANDOVERY disappointed their supporters and themselves by failing to rise above a very ordinary looking Ebbw Vale side.

The Drovers were down by 8-3 at the interval, and although Hywel Jones kicked well with the wind in the second half, they failed to score a try until the final minutes when it was too late.

The backs made the openings but failed to capitalise on them.

The turning point came mid-way through the second half with the score at 11-6.

Ebbw Vale missed a penalty, but Llandovery failed to clear from behind their own lines with disastrous consequences as Caine Price pounced for the second of his hat-trick.

**Ebbw Vale 21
Llandovery 13**

Both sides lost a player 15 minutes from time when Vale flanker Julian Birt and Llandovery's Eurig Evans were sent off.

Llandovery's try was claimed by outside half Jeremy Rowe and converted by Hywel Jones.

Llandovery must now struggle for a win at home against Abertillery on March 27, or away to Narberth on April 3.

They cannot sit back and hope that the sides below them are going to lose. On 14 points at the moment, their immediate threat comes from Penarth who can reach 16 points, Tredegar who can reach 14 points and Blaina, who can reach 16 points.

We're just champion!



● **CHAMIONS CUP WINNERS:** Llandovery Second XV who won the Llanelli and District Ryan Evans Builders Champions Cup at Cefneithin last Thursday, beating Carmarthen United 19-12 in the final. Geraint John crossed for two tries, while Adrian Williams scored a third and added two conversions. Pictured back row, from left to right: Eirian Jones, Emyr James, Carwyn Jones, Huw Evans, David Bancroft, Dafydd Thomas, Dylan Morgan, Andrew Jones, Aled Jones. Front row: Adrian Williams, Geraint John, Stuart Doel (captain), Erian Lewis, Wynn Morgan, John Hughes.

Photo: John Jenkins, Llandovery.



LLANDOVERY R.F.C. SEASON 1993-1994

Aiming for top spot in the league

AS one of the founder members of the Welsh Rugby Union Llandovery are hoping to take what they feel is their rightful place in the top flight of the Heineken League.

The club certainly has the pedigree for the top flight.

Their most capped player, C.P. Lewis was captain of Wales in their second, third and fourth matches.

And their best known player of recent times, Carwyn Davies, went on to break Llanelli's try scoring records and play for Wales.

Now coach Stan Liptrot feels Llandovery have a young side capable of taking them back where

they belong.

"This is a young team with bags of skill and confidence, everything is there to take us up into the first division, whether it is this year or the year after.

"It is a young and emerging side which is full of potential, there is quite a buzz around the place. There is an excellent spirit in the side.

They may have lost Chris Davies to Dunvant and Gerald Lewis to Builth Wells, but Llandovery have brought in a number of new players and some promising youngsters.

One of the biggest signings, in more ways than one, is giant second row Craig Yendle.

Mr Liptrot says: "He is a 6ft 8ins second row forward, who has

already played for the South and South West Under-21s. He will be going for the England Under-21s this year.

"Colin Horscroft from Carmarthen Athletic is a very good hooker, and we have also signed Andy Hodgkinson, last year's captain of Cardiff Institute, who is a high class winger. Fly-half Dai Lloyd, of Brecon, looks a very promising player.

"Some of our younger players in the youth, under-21s and second teams are coming through well.

"Aled Davies is looking really good and Dylan Morgan has come on leaps and bounds. Both are flankers and I am highly delighted with them, they work together very well."



● READY FOR ACTION . . . Llandovery pictured during a training session this week.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams



● **AIMING HIGH:** Llandovery RFC pictured in their new playing kit for this year sponsored by Air Cargo Wales. Pictured in the centre of the middle row are Mr Huw Thomas, of Air Cargo Wales, club captain Huw Thomas and coach Stan Liptrot.

LLANDOVERY UPSET PRE-SEASON ODDS

LLANDOVERY'S young side upset the betting odds on the opening day of the league programme with a successful day at the seaside.

And following this win, against a side rated at 8-1, their odds have been shortened from 33-1 to 25-1.

Penarth's powerful pack had a second half shock when Llandovery's youthful side turned a 9-3 half-time deficit into a 16-9 victory.

After Craig Millar's hat-trick of penalties for Penarth, Llandovery's star outside-half David Lloyd-Jones, in his first game for the club, did likewise to level the scores at 9-9, 10 minutes into the second half.

Llandovery were starved of good ball in the first half and defended desperately.

In the second half, Llandovery's Adrian Williams combined effectively with his partner and, with a better supply of ball from the hard working forwards, the backs came into their own.

Llandovery's try was a beauty. Ian Jones's line-out and Richard Dix's intelligent entry into the line gave centre

Penarth 9 Llandovery 16

Alun Thomas the ball on the burst.

He raced clear in his inimitable style, and when stopped he found Dylan Morgan and Nigel Clarke inside him, for the latter to score under the post.

The forwards deserve special mention for their valiant efforts and this blend of youth and experience can only benefit from this first match as they gel into a combined unit, as they started to do as this game progressed into the second half.

Jeremy Rowe, at the back, linked well in attack, and one tackle on the opposing right wing in the first half, saved a certain try.

This was a very pleasing start to what looks like being a hard season, and Llandovery will want to build on this result this Saturday when they entertain South Wales Police, who also won their first game of the season by beating Abertillery 15-7 at home.



Beaten by sheer power

A TREORCHY side that had not scored a single try up to their game with Llandovery certainly made amends on Saturday when they stuck four on the Drovers in the Heineken League Division Two clash.

All four tries were done through the power of their pack, with the forwards winning good ruck ball and then keeping it close to their strength, the Treorchy forwards were able to drive Llandovery back yards before releasing it to their backs.

Only poor handling and place kicking kept the Rhondda team's score down to sensible proportions.

But there was one plus point to the Llandovery pack — and that was their excellent scrummaging.

With this work, they managed to take two strikes against the head.

Unfortunately in the first half, the team lacked possession.

And they thus fell foul of the much use cliché that you cannot play rugby without the ball.

Being 12-6 down at half time, Llandovery came more into the game — despite playing into the wind.

Good work by half backs Adrian Williams and David Lloyd-Jones saw the threequarters frequently venturing deep into the Treorchy half.

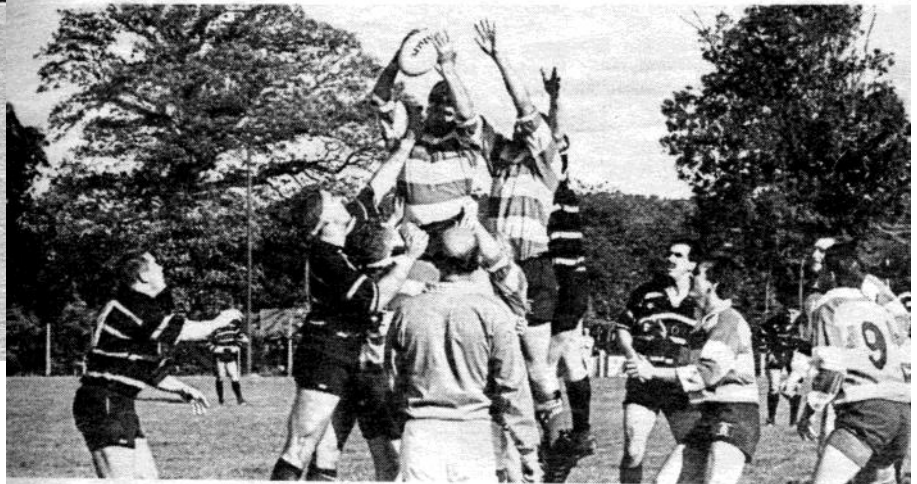
But Llandovery had to

settle for two penalty goals kicked in the first half by David Lloyd-Jones — one of them a massive effort from the half-way line!

On the whole, it was a disappointing day out from the Llandovery lads and their supporters.

And next week against Maesteg will be no easier for they are still unbeaten.

But at least after that game, Llandovery will have played the top three sides in the division during the first month of the season.



● IT'S MINE... Llandovery lock forward Ian Jones towers above Maesteg's jumpers to make a clean catch to get the Drovers' backs in motion.

Drovers deliver league shock in run-up to big Tenby game

LLANDOVERY came out full of confidence against Heineken League rivals Maesteg and took play to the opposition straight from the start.

With Ian Jones and Craig Yandell winning more line out possession than in the previous three games put together and with tireless No. 8 Nigel Clarke showing his younger teammates the way in defence and attack, the platform was set for a fine all-round display.

Although Maesteg took an early lead, a drop goal and a penalty goal by David Lloyd-Jones made the score 6-3 at the interval.

**Llandovery 20 points,
Maesteg 10**

The 15 minutes after the break provide a purple patch for Llandovery.

After good work by the pack, slick handling put wing Hodgkinson over in the corner with Lloyd-Jones converting from the touchline.

Then after surging runs by Aled Davies and Adrian Williams, a delighted 20-year-old Andrew Jones was on hand to grab a vital try — his first for this team by the prop.

The conversion saw the score taken to 20 points to three and seemed to sting Maesteg into action.

International No. 8 Andrew Williams powerful over for a Maesteg try, which was converted by Mark Watts.

But that was the last of the scoring as Llandovery's defence held firm.

Of particular note during this period a try-saving tackle by wing Arwel Davies.

Llandovery can now look forward with a little more confidence to their visit to Tenby on Saturday.



DROVERS SHADE IT

A **DOUR** struggle, played mainly in windy conditions and a downpour, brought a cliff-hanger of a game with the result in doubt almost until the final whistle.

Playing against the elements in the first half, Llandovery seemed up against it when strong running in the centre brought a try in the corner for right wing Darren

**Llandovery 9
Mountain Ash 8**

Moseley.

An exchange of penalties brought the half time score to 8-3 after Mountain Ash had missed numerous chances to increase their lead.

The weather changed at half time with the sun coming out and the wind dying down.

However, Llandovery were not to be denied. Excellent throwing in by new hooker Aled Davies enabled Ian Jones and Craig Yandell to enjoy a field day in the lines-out.

Also, with Nigel Clarke restored to number eight, and the number

one half-back combination, Llandovery were firing on all cylinders once more.

Diminutive scrum-half Adrian Williams was often playing as an extra forward against the big Mountain Ash back row.

But the elusive winning try would not come, despite prolonged Llandovery pressure.

Eventually it was left to David Lloyd-Jones with two penalties — one of them bouncing over dam-busters style off the cross-bar — to clinch the vital two points.

Llandovery take a break from league action this Saturday, the next search for points will be at Ebbw Vale and their big pack on Saturday, October 23.

Pressure takes its toll

THIS WAS the most comprehensive defeat of the season for Llandovery.

Facing a stiff, cold, wind, and a jumbo pack, they found life difficult in the first half.

They defended bravely for the greater part of the 40 minutes, but the pressure was bound to tell.

Two converted tries and a penalty made the half-time score 17-0 in favour

**Ebbw Vale 29
Llandovery 0**

of the home side — not too much of a deficit for Llandovery as they had the wind behind them in the second half.

But the home eight were too strong for the Drovers, and man-of-the-match Steve Fealey at scrum-half put in some surging runs, and set up

most of the moves for his back-row.

This, in turn, led to two further tries by the home side's three-quarters.

The Llandovery backs must have felt they had been in an afternoon of intensive tackling practice at the end of the game.

However, with their limited possession they did look dangerous on a couple of occasions.

Once in the first half, the Llandovery pack were held up when on the point of scoring and one chip and chase by David Lloyd-Jones took the ball over the opposing line. But the referee did not agree with the Llandovery supporters' opinion that a try had been scored.

On Saturday, Llandovery have a tough task when they entertain an in-form Abertillery at Church Bank.

Llandovery try drought continues

WHILE coach Stan Liptrot was away trying to plot the downfall of the All Blacks with the South West side, his club struggling to contain Abertillery at Church Bank.

The home looked good during the first 20 minutes but fell away as outside half Byron Hayward started to dominate the match.

Hayward, went on to collect a personal tally of 19 points through two conversions, four penalties and a dropped goal.

There were also tries from McCorduck and

**Llandovery 9
Abertillery 29**

Richards, as Abertillery continued their winning run, which sees them undefeated after losing their first three matches.

Llandovery's only reply came via three penalties from David Lloyd-Jones.

The Drovers' inability to cross the opposition try line once again will cause concern. They now have the lowest try count in the division and second lowest in the league.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Drovers discover top form

LLANDOVERY found some form when they travelled to take on Glamorgan Wanderers in the Heineken League on Saturday.

The visiting pack dominated the match and the Drovers made the most of a rare chance to boost their try scoring record.

They crossed four times through Hodgkinson, Evans, Thomas and Rees.

Outside half David Lloyd-Jones converted all four and kicked two penalties, to give Llandovery a 34-14 win.

Drovers shut out

NARBERTH leapfrogged above Llandovery in the Heineken League second division following this four match on Saturday.

Llandovery rarely looked like adding to their eight tries this season as the Narberth pack dominated the match.

Indeed, almost the whole of the second half

was played in the Llandovery half.

However, the Drovers defended bravely and denied the home side the tries their domination should have reaped.

Time after time Narberth were denied by valiant Llandovery tackles, while full-back Hywel Jones was repeatedly call-

ed on to kick the ball to safety.

In the end Narberth had to be satisfied with kicking the matchwinning points. Steve Pearce landed penalties after 16 and 44 minutes. He also attempted three dropped goals.

This Saturday, Llandovery entertain

Llanharan in a match which the form book suggests will not be over blessed with tries. The visitors have also crossed their opponents line on just eight occasions.

But this is the kind of match Llandovery must win if they want to stay clear of the relegation zone.

Drovers on right track

LLANDOVERY hit some form on Saturday when they overcame Llanharan to register their fifth win of the season in Division Two of the Heineken League.

This was a match Llandovery really needed to win in order to pull away from the relegation zone, and they produced the goods with a fine win.

This was a good all round performance with the Llandovery pack winning good line-out ball through England Under-21 second-row Craig Yandell, and pushing the visiting scrum back.

This allowed the speedy backs to show their talents.

Llandovery's first try came after eight minutes when scrum-half Adrian Williams

Llandovery 22
Llanharan 15

robbed his opposite number and allowed Nigel Clarke to send wing Hywel Jones over. Jones also converted.

Llanharan hit back with a try, but Llandovery scored again when flanker Dylan Morgan set up wing Andy Hodgkinson to score.

Again Llanharan hit back after the break to level matters, but Llandovery outside-half Richard Dix created a gap for Hodgkinson to score again. Dix also kicked a penalty and a conversion.

Llanharan are obviously hampered at the

moment by the absence of their record breaking goal kicker Jimmy Morris.

Llandovery have a further chance to move up the table this Saturday when they entertain Penarth, who are currently two places below Llandovery and third from bottom.

● Llandovery have been given a potentially difficult SWALEC Cup fourth round draw away against West Wales Section B leaders New Dock Stars, who have won nine out of nine league matches this season and are four points clear at the top.

There is a considerable incentive for Llandovery. If they win they will be at home in the fifth round to either Mold or Beddau, with a good chance of going even further.

Still in trouble

LLANDOVERY missed a golden opportunity to move away from the Heineken League Second Division relegation zone when they were beaten 21-11 at home to Penarth.

Things are tight in the middle to lower sections of the second division, and every win is vital with only four points separating seven teams.

This match was in the balance right up to the closing stages with the sides locked at 11-11 points each.

David Giles scored

Llandovery 11
Penarth 21

Llandovery's try after a kick and chase, while Hywel Jones and Adrian Williams kicked penalties.

With time running out Penarth claimed a decisive score when wing Roger Phillips crossed for a try.

The result was then put beyond all doubt when Steve Thomas crossed for another try.

In the second division, Llandovery suffered a surprise 21-11 home defeat against Penarth.

"It was 11-11 with three minutes to go, and we should have had a point from it," said Llandovery secretary Roland Griffiths.

The Llandovery points were made up of a try by No.8 David Giles, plus penalties from wing Hywel Jones and scrum-half Adrian Williams.



Drovers stay in the danger zone

LLANDOVERY stay in the relegation dogfight at the bottom of the Heineken League Second Division table following their defeat at the hands of South Wales Police.

After going 6-0 to two Justin Price penalties there was encouragement for the Drovers when wing Andy Hodgkinson intercepted a Police pass and raced over for his fifth try of the season. Richard Dix converted.

But their joy was short lived as centre Mark Cox rounded off a fine Police move with a try. Price converted.

The home side increased their lead when Price crossed for his side's third try in the corner.

Two tries in a as many minutes by number eight Ian Hemburrow rounded off the half to leave Llandovery well

South Wales Police 37
Llandovery 19

adrift.

A try by D. Morgan and a second try from Hodgkinson gave Llandovery something to show for their efforts. But Cox also crossed for a second try for the Police.

Llandovery need to start picking up points soon, but there seems to be little chance of reward this Saturday as they face the daunting task of entertaining Treorchy.

The Zebras are nine points clear at the top of the second division. They boast the best defensive record in the division and the second best try and points total.

However, it will be another chance for Llandovery's rugby public to see top players perform at Church Bank.

DROVERS ALMOST ROUND-UP ZEBRAS

Luc saves unbeaten tag

A BRAVE fightback in the last 20 minutes denied Llandovery one of the biggest shocks of the season as they threatened to take Treorchy's 23 match unbeaten record.

Llandovery had built up their 11-0 advantage against the runaway league leaders during the first half when they played with a strong wind at their backs.

The home side went straight on the attack and took the lead after two minutes thanks to scrum-half Adrian Williams picking up from a five yard scrum and dummying his way over.

Outside half Richard Dix increased his side's lead after 12 minutes when Luc Evans was penalised for not releasing the ball.

The league leaders hit back, but Dix used the wind well to pin them back with long kicks.

Just before half time Dix made the score 11-0 with a 45 metre penalty goal.

Playing into a strong wind in the second half, the home pack fought doggedly with their line

out jumpers gaining more than their share of possession, and with Dix, nursing his forwards, the score was a fair reflection of events.

However, just when it seemed as though their invincible league run was coming to an end, the Zebras managed to steal a draw during a frenetic 10 minute spell, which also saw three Llandovery players leave the field injured.

Two Luc Evans penalties, and a twisting opportunist try by the same player, following a speculative chip by David Evans, saw the Rhondda side draw level.

They almost snatched victory when the touchline conversion attempt missed by inches.

The honour of becoming the first side to take a point off Treorchy this season befitted the heroic efforts of the Llandovery team, whose tigerish tackling almost brought down the Zebras.

The point proves useful for the Drovers, making

their Division Two future look a little more secure, giving coach Stan Liptrot a chance to develop his promising young squad.

Mr Liptrot said of the result: "We made it clear to everyone that Llandovery are not relegation candidates, and showed that we are good enough to beat anyone in this division."

● Llandovery are continuing to develop off the field. They have received a £20,000 grant from the Foundation for Sport and Arts to assist with the development of their new stand and changing rooms.



"We can win title" — coach

IF LLANDOVERY can stay in the second division of the Heineken League this season, they could win the division championship within two years.

That is the bold prediction from the Drovers' coach Stan Liptrot who believes Llandovery already have the nucleus of a championship winning side, if they are given the chance to develop.

At the start of the season, only three of the Llandovery team which lined up against Penarth on the opening day, played in the corresponding fixture last season.

Mr Liptrot said: "I am delighted the way we have stayed at it. Things were a little apprehensive at the start of the season. People had retired and left, we had lost half the side in just 12 months. A big rebuilding job needed to be done.

He praised the players who have

come in to the side in place of the old guard.

"Players like Craig Yandell, Richard Dix and David Lloyd-Jones have been a revelation. And a crop of young players like Andrew Jones, Dylan Morgan and Adrian Williams have come through."

The raw material is there, all that is needed is for the team to gel together and gain some confidence.

"Our problem is more psychological than anything else, the lads need to believe in themselves.

"We have the nucleus for a championship winning side in the next two years. They will be a formidable unit.

"I am optimistic, but there is still a job to be done — a difficult one.

"We have got to survive this season and next year will be easier. It is not a formality, there is a lot of

work to be done.

"The gap between the top and bottom of the division is closing all the time. There are going to be a lot of surprise results before the end of the season and we have got to be careful that we don't get caught."

Llandovery are also still heavily involved in this year's SWALEC Cup, with a fifth round match at home to Mold on January 22.

But Mr Liptrot says the cup will not be allowed to get in the way of the campaign.

"Our priority is league survival, nothing will come in the way of that. The cup is second priority."

Llandovery are currently fourth from bottom in the second division, three points clear of second from bottom Mountain Ash, who have a game in hand.

NOT AS BLACK AS IT LOOKS

THE FINAL score flattered to deceive, as Neath concentrated all their scoring into the last 15 minutes of the first half, and the final five minutes of the match.

During the other 60 minutes of the match, the game was evenly balanced with locks Ian Jones and Nigel Clarke winning a fair share of line out possession and

the home pack comfortably winning their own scrum ball.

Indeed, the Llandovery back division, even with limited opportunities looked far more creative than their Neath counterparts, in particular, outside half Richard Dix having another fine game.

It was inevitably up front that the All Blacks dominated

Llandovery 7
Neath 37

through their driving forward play with scrum-half Rhodri Jones the instigator of many attacks with his sniping runs always causing panic in the home defence.

However, Llandovery defended fearlessly, none more so than the back row of John Hughes, Aled

Davies and Dylan Morgan, holding the visitors to a half time lead of 20-0.

Immediately after the restart, Richard Dix charged down a Jeff Bird chip and gathered to run in unopposed from 40 metres, and with Hywel Jones converting the large crowd anticipated a fightback.

But as Llandovery tired, Neath's sweep-

ing attacks found gaps for wing Anthony Donovan, hooker Andrew Thomas, and centre Adrian Shaw to go over for his hat-trick try in the last move of the game.

Scorers: Llandovery — try, R. Dix, conversion, Hywel Jones.

Neath — tries, A. Shaw (3), R. Jones, A. Donovan, A. Thomas, conversions, J. Bird (2), penalty, J. Bird.



Drovers set their sights

LLANDOVERY are aiming to reach the last 16 of the SWALEC Cup for the second year running at the expense of North Walesians Mold.

If they achieve their goal, they will be once again seeded for next season's competition, as well as being in with a chance of a money spinning sixth round tie.

But in typical cup style, the Heineken second division side are not counting their chickens.

Llandovery spokesman Roland Griffiths told the Guardian: "We have kept a close eye on what they have done.

"They are obviously a strong side, they

have beaten Llandybie and Beddau, and beat Ruthin last Saturday.

"They haven't got a very big pack and they throw the ball about a bit. Their strength is in their three-quarters."

Llandovery are wise not to underestimate their opponents. Mold have a 100 per cent record in the David McLean North Wales League, which they lead by seven points.

But Mr Griffiths says Llandovery seem to be running into form.

"We played Neath and Swansea after Christmas, and they both brought strong sides.

"For three-quarters of the game we looked

more of a first division side than Swansea, although they weren't at full strength.

"We must not be over confident, but if we play the way we did against Swansea, when the forwards were tremendous, we should be alright."

The club has made it clear second division survival is its main aim this season, but Mr Griffiths adds: "There is a lot to play for.

"The feeling is the league is number one, but it is a big incentive to get to the last sixteen."

Last season, Llandovery drew Bridgend away in the sixth round. If they get through this time, they will be hoping for a home draw.

BRING ON THE CUP HOLDERS

LLANDOVERY are delighted at the prospect of facing the SWALEC Cup holders Llanelli on their own Stradey Park back-yard.

Many might have been daunted by the prospect, but not Llandovery coach Stan Liptrot.

He told the Guardian: "It's a wonderful draw. Everyone is looking forward to it. We are going to enjoy the trip to Stradey. No one will care if we don't do to well.

But that is not to say Llandovery have conceded defeat to last year's double winners.

"You've got to go there to win. We are not going there just to make up the numbers. We have got a

Llandovery 13
Mold 3

young side and this will be a great experience for them."

On Saturday, Llandovery failed to make bold Mold fold! In fact the North Wales visitors gave the home defence a stern test before ultimately succumbing to the Heineken League outfit's greater awareness and experience.

Llandovery started confidently and were 7-0 up after only four minutes through a driving maul try by hooker Colin Horsecroft, duly converted by outside half Richard Dix.

This had the effect of jolting Mold into action and they continually attempted to open up play at every opportunity, with their game plan seemingly geared to running the legs off the heavier Llandovery forwards.

Their back-row was always in

the thick of things, being generally quickest to the break-down to win a fair share of good ball at ruck and maul.

Nonetheless, the solid home defence held firm and only conceded a penalty goal, kicked after 26 minutes by Graham Spence.

Llandovery enjoyed greater territorial advantage in the second half and clinched victory via two further Dix penalties.

But Mold kept nagging away with some enterprising movements.

Llandovery's Nigel Clarke and Aled Davies were prominent back row foragers, and whilst victory was Llandovery's, the honours went to Mold, as was evident from the applause given to them by the large crowd at the end of the game.

A return to the form and attitude recently displayed against Swansea will be vital against Tenby this Saturday, if they are to secure vital league points.



Lead is swept away

Llandovery 9
Tenby 24

TENBY improved their Heineken League Division Two promotion chances when they overcame Llandovery at Church Bank on Saturday in a match which turned with a breakaway try for Tenby.

Llandovery had steadily built up a 9-0 lead

midway through the first half, when they enjoyed the advantage of the strong wind and rain at their backs.

But they conceded the breakaway score when Mike Evans crashed over for a try, following a tapped penalty.

Gavin Scotcher kicked the conversion to make the half time score 9-7 to the Drovers.

In the second half,

Tenby expertly controlled the game through their pack, displaying admirable ball retention and driving maul skills.

Their captain and number eight Mike Evans showing inspirational form.

In general, they showed greater astuteness in their choice of tactics in the windswept conditions with outside-half Giles Thomas pinning Llan-

doverly in their own 22 for long periods, varying his up and unders with clever box kicks.

Llandovery did enjoy a good patch in the middle of the second half, but a Scotcher penalty and a try from scrum-half Richard Evans, diving in at a controlled five yard scrum, meant Tenby ended the game in irresistible fashion.

Scorers:

Llandovery — penalties - R. Dix (3).

Tenby — tries M. Evans, D. Balkwill, R. Evans, conversions - G. Scotcher (3), penalties - Scotcher.

● On the eve of Saturday's Ireland v Wales rugby international (Friday), Llandovery were due to entertain Tumble in a friendly at Church Bank, but the match has been postponed, due to players travelling to the international.

Drovers' friendly win

THIS friendly was belatedly arranged following the postponement of the visitors league fixture against Oakdale, and both teams took the opportunity afforded them by the cold and dry conditions to play open rugby.

Llandovery fielded two new faces in the pack and also experimented throughout the game, trying several different

Llandovery 15
Pyle 12

backline combinations.

In an evenly contested affair between the Heineken Division Four and Division Two sides, play swung to and fro, involving both sets of forwards and backs.

Centre and captain Huw Thomas broke the deadlock with a try which was

cancelled out within five minutes by a similar try in the corner by the Pyle right wing.

Outside-half Richard Dix then ghosted through from 22 metres out to score beneath the posts. He duly converted his own try.

Pyle again retaliated, and within a short spell drew level with a converted try following a forward

charge from a tapped penalty 15 metres out.

The half time score of 12-12 remained the same until the final 10 minutes of the game when Pyle were penalised for offside in front of their own posts. Richard Dix kicked the winning score.

● On February 26, Llandovery travel to Stradey Park to tackle the SWALEC Cup holders

Llanelli.

Although they start as overwhelming underdogs, if they can show the same commitment and gain the possession, they did during the recent encounters against Swansea and Neath, who know what might happen?

A supporters bus will be leaving from the clubhouse at a price of £3. All support is welcome.

End of cup trail for the Drovers

FORWARDS of the stature of Welsh internationals Emyr Lewis, Phil Davies, Mark Perego and Lyn Jones, were needed to finally extinguish Llandovery's brave SWALEC Cup challenge at Stradey Park.

The Scarlets began the match so hesitantly that it took them half an hour to open their account.

During that time, the visitors gave a good account of themselves in all areas of the game.

Llanelli 57
Llandovery 5

It took the steady influence of a try by prop Huw Williams Jones to set Llanelli on their way to victory.

After leading by a modest 10-0 at the break, Llanelli went on to score seven more tries in the second half.

By the end, the Scarlets, who have now won an incredible 99 out of 112 cup games, were playing with their usual flair and fluency.

Their exciting skills, held in check for so much of the game, were never better illustrated than in full back Ian Jones' excellent try.

Other tries were claimed by wing for the day Simon Davies (2), Emyr Lewis, Rupert Moon, Ricky Evans,

and Neil Boobyer. Colin Stephens banged over seven conversions.

Llandovery battled on game but once the home team had started their authority on the forward battle, coupled with the loss of second row Craig Yandell and prop Arwel Evans, the match was towards an inevitable conclusion.

With 10 internationals in the team, seven in the pack, the Scarlets were clearly going to cut loose some point.

The back row of Mark Perego, Lyn Jones and in particular Emyr Lewis, were never going to be easily repulsed, but Llandovery did served credit for their tenacity and won praise for their late try by right wing Andy Hodgkinson.

On Saturday its back to league action for Llandovery as they travel to take on Mountain Ash.

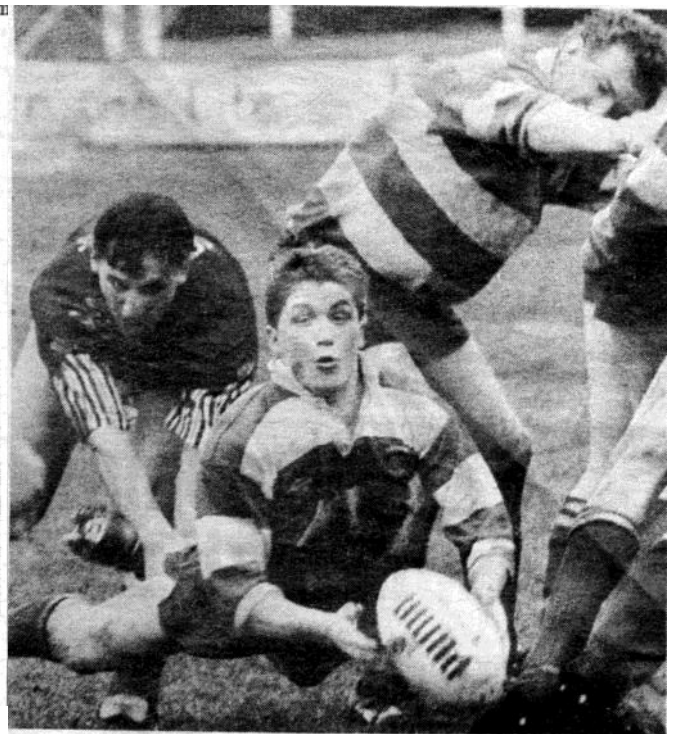


Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams



HANDY YANDELL: Llandovery lock Craig Yandell manages to get a hand on the ball to try and disrupt Anthony Copsey's two handed catch at Stradey Park.



● **MOON ECLIPSED:** Llandovery scrum-half Adrian Williams manages to escape the clutches of Wales scrum-half Rupert Moon to get the ball away during Saturday's SWALEC Cup clash with Llanelli.



● **PROTECTION RACKET:** Llandovery's forwards gather around hooker Aled Rhys-Davies as he delivers the ball to scrum half Adrian Williams during the Drovers' SWALEC Cup visit to Stradey Park on Saturday.



DROVERS FALL TO WIZARDS' SPELL

LLANDOVERY gave a good account of themselves in this friendly match against first division opposition.

Although up against a bigger and more experienced pack, Llandovery did well in the scrummages and gained some useful balls in the lines-out.

New faces in the pack were young hooker Hywel James and well built, mobile number eight

**Aberavon 35
Llandovery 14**

Barry Picton, both of whom gave good accounts of themselves.

Picton scored a good try in the first half after excellent combined play, converted by David Lloyd-Jones to make the half time score 18-7.

The Llandovery backs looked very impressive in possession, with wing Andy Hodgkinson putting in some threatening runs down the right touchline.

The half-backs Adrian Williams and Richard Dix combined well with the latter scoring an excellent

try in the second half, strolling through under the posts after a cheeky dummy, with the opposition unable to lay a finger on him.

Dix converted his own try, but in the end, superior power and the experience of playing in Division One every week, proved too much for the young and lively Llandovery side.

It looks as if the WRU management committee are going to make Llandovery play their fixture at Maesteg on Tuesday March 22, although the Drovers have bent over backwards to accommodate Maesteg by offering a Saturday date in February and then a Tuesday date in April — it certainly is a cruel world.

Drovers are 'swamped'

LLANDOVERY slipped to their ninth defeat of the season as they went down 26-10 in appalling conditions at Maesteg's Old Parish Ground on Tuesday night.

The Drovers had difficulty in raising a side for the mid-week encounter, and were shocked at the condition of the pitch when they arrived at the ground.

With pools of water were gathering on the playing surface, the visitors were surprised at the referee's decision to go ahead.

However, Llandovery put up a spirited fight against the promotion chasers, who needed a victory to keep right on the heels of second placed Abertillery.

Maesteg went into the lead early on when outside-half Mark Watts kicked a penalty after two minutes.

The home-side put Llandovery under pressure up front and forced the visiting pack 20 metres. This opened up the opportunity for Watts to dummy his way over for a try.

Llandovery came back well when centre David Lloyd Jones kicked a penalty.

The Drovers then took the lead when outside-half Richard Dix broke through the Maesteg defence and set up Lloyd Jones to score near to the posts. The same player converted.

Maesteg were in determined mood, and went back into the lead after 20 minutes when Watts kicked his second penalty.

The same player then landed a penalty to give Maesteg a 14-10 lead at the break.

The second half saw Maesteg pull away

when scrum-half Huw Lewis crossed for a try. Watts converted to complete a fine personal all round scoring performance.

The victory was put beyond all doubt five minutes from time when a Watts kick was dropped by Andy Hodgkinson and Roddy Boobyer was on hand to score.

The defeat means Llandovery stay fourth from bottom, three points above second from bottom Penarth, who now have game in hand.

Llandovery face another tough challenge on Saturday when they take on mid-table side Ebbw Vale.

A victory will not be enough to take them up the table, but would move them clear of the bottom clubs, who also face tough matches.

Richard gains revenge

LLANDOVERY gained revenge following a heavy away defeat earlier in the season, and eventually ran out worthy winners, bagging two precious league points in the process.

Richard Dix once again displayed his range of talents. The classy outside-half was voted man of the match for his outstanding performance which saw him score all 25 points.

The platform for victory, nevertheless, was established by the tenacity and determination of the whole team whose attitude and approach certainly took the visitors by surprise.

Ebbw Vale tried to dominate up front by winning the majority of set piece possession with their heavier and taller pack constantly battering away at the home defence.

**Llandovery 25
Ebbw Vale 0**

The home forwards did not yield to the constant barrage, as they were unflinching in their commitment to the tackle — none more so than the tireless back-row trio of number eight Barry Picton and flankers John Hughes and Adrian Davies.

The Llandovery backs, well organised by skipper Huw Thomas, were easily capable of snuffing out any attacks on the few occasions the ball was spun outside.

When Llandovery were in action they were

positive in thought and swift in action, deserving more than just the one try.

Hero Richard Dix kicked four penalties to give his side a 12-0 lead at half-time and with 10 minutes to go he opened up the Vale defence near halfway, beating the full-back with nonchalant ease to score a breathtaking try under the posts.

He converted, and followed this with a further two penalties to conclusively wrap up the game.

With just five league games left (two at home and three away), if Llandovery can reproduce this form, they should consolidate, if not strengthen, their position in Division Two.



Llandovery to appeal

LLANDOVERY are appealing against the Heineken League's decision to rearrange their important away fixture against Mountain Ash to this coming Saturday.

The Drovers may be forced to complete the fixture with a depleted side as they have planned a visit to London this weekend for a match against London Welsh and to compete in the Voyagers Sevens.

Coach Stan Liptrot said: "We had planned to go away this Easter and we are appealing against the decision to rearrange.

"If we are forced to play, we may have a number of players missing and we may even decide not to turn up. It's a pity as this is such a big game for us."

Llandovery are currently three points clear of second from bottom Mountain Ash.

Drovers take their chances

LLANDOVERY once again displayed greater hunger and awareness than their opponents by clinically making use of the few scoring opportunities that were on offer in this relegation battle against an equally determined Mountain Ash.

From the beginning, the home eight attempted to steamroller the lighter Drovers pack, with former Pontypridd lock Jim Scarlett winning an endless supply of line-out ball against a pack, which due to injuries and work commitments, included only one recognized line out jumper.

Despite being smaller in stature man for man, the lack of height of the likes of props Eurig Evans and Andrew Jones, and

Mountain Ash 12 Llandovery 22

second row Huw Evans, was more than compensated for by the tenacity and upper body strength shown in winning valuable ball from the loose mauls.

The back row trio also foraged in open play, with John Hughes and scrum-half-come-flanker Adrian Davies tackling like a demon, and the ever improving number eight Barry Picton charging away on several counter attacking bursts.

Things started off well enough for Mountain Ash when former Pontypridd full-back Jonathan Mason kicked an early penalty, but Llandovery hit back when wing Mike Cushion

sent a wild defensive kick straight into the arms of a thankful Alan Thomas, and the experienced centre dashed 25 metres for a try converted by outside-half David Lloyd-Jones.

Fly-half Kevin Price then lobbed a soft pass which Thomas intercepted and after linking with co-centre Huw Thomas, scrum-half Adrian Williams was sent over near enough to the post to convert.

Mason got a penalty before half-time and when he landed a further two after the break, to make it 12-10, it looked as if the Old Firm were going to win.

Lloyd-Jones kicked a penalty for the Drovers, but in the last hectic quarter, it was Mountain Ash

who did all the attacking, only to be denied certain tries on two occasions; firstly by a great tackle by Huw Thomas, and then a magnificent cover tackle by full-back Hywel Jones in the dying minutes.

As Llandovery defended heroically, Price was again at fault just three minutes from the end when his laboured pass was gobbled up by the energetic Andy Hodgkinson, and the winger joyously raced in for the killer try from fully 50 metres.

• This result now opens up a five point gap between Llandovery and their nearest challengers. With the next fixture at second placed Abertillery, on this form an upset is a distinct possibility.



Chances go begging

IN A GAME played in wintry conditions, the outcome was always going to be decided by the team who scored most points whilst holding the advantage of a blustery wind.

Abertillery played against the elements in the first half and managed to restrict Llandovery to a six point lead via two Richard Dix penalties.

Unfortunately, for Llandovery, he narrowly missed with two other efforts and the effect of this was further compounded when at least two try scoring opportunities were missed having seen the home defence split wide open.

Firstly, flanker Barry Picton broke clear and

Abertillery 13 Llandovery 6

then centre David Lloyd-Jones also opened up a gap, but on both occasions the moves failed due to handling errors.

Whereas in the last game against Mountain Ash, it was the Drovers' clinical finishing that had been the key to victory.

Had Llandovery managed to score then, victory would have been in their grasp, as the pack, with hooker Hywel James to the fore, more than won their fair share of set piece possession.

This was largely due to the return of number eight Nigel Clarke and second

row Craig Yendle, who together with ever-present Ian Jones dominated the line-out during the first-half.

However, after the interval, Byron Hayward reduced his side's deficit with an easy penalty, and shortly afterwards the referee awarded the home side a dubious penalty try after he judged that Llandovery had illegally collapsed a muddy five metre scrum. Hayward added the conversion.

This proved a vital score, for try as they did, Llandovery could not infiltrate the Abertillery half for long enough to exert sufficient pressure to add to their score.

The outcome was put beyond doubt when Hayward kicked his second penalty.

Nevertheless, with second placed Abertillery taking a further step towards promotion, Llan-

doverly can take heart from the fact that they were the better team for long periods.

However, with the relegation battle really hotting up following wins from rivals Mountain Ash and Penarth, next Saturday's crucial encounter with Glamorgan Wanderers at Church Bank will be vital to ensure Llandovery's second division stature for next season.

Drovers in trouble

LLANDOVERY allowed themselves to be sucked into the Division Two relegation mire as they failed to overcome a sprightly Wanderers side at Church Bank.

The visitors, already doomed to relegation, turned in a spirited display containing some excellent flowing rugby to outscore their hosts by three tries to one.

They were worthy winners on the day, displaying

Llandovery 10 Glamorgan Wands 17

greater urgency and eagerness than the home team, who were surprisingly subdued for most of the game.

Llandovery, with a strong wind at their backs in the first period, took the lead with a try by centre and captain Huw Thomas, converted by fly-

half David Lloyd-Jones.

This lead did not appear to be enough and the Wanderers hit back in impressive fashion with tries by scrum-half Darren Gibbon, hooker Tim Henson and flanker Mark Burley.

Llandovery now face two tricky matches over the next fortnight against Narberth and Llanharan. They must win at least one to be sure of preserving second division status next season.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Drovers end on low note

THE final game of this year's Heineken League campaign saw the Drovers deservedly beaten by the Dairymen, thanks in the main to the masterful tactical performance of their fly-half Jimmy Morris.

The outcome of this encounter in the relegation stakes, however, was of little consequence following Treorchy's victory over Mountain Ash — dooming them to Division Three rugby next term.

Llandovery started the game strongly and looked very threatening in the opening quarter, unfortunately they failed to convert early pressure into points — Richard Dix missing with two penalty attempts that he would normally have comfortably slotted over.

Having weathered the early storm, the home forwards grew more confident and with

Llanharan 19 Llandovery 0

Jimmy Morris nursing his pack astutely, they managed to take control of possession.

They were rewarded just before half-time when wing Paul Hughes crossed in the corner for a try converted by Morris.

With the strong wind at their backs in the second period Llandovery appeared well capable of overturning this deficit, camping in the Llanharan half for long spells, but hesitant back play coupled with some sound defensive tackling by the home team, meant that for the first time this season, Llandovery failed to score.

Arwel Rowlands made several penetrative incursions through mid-field after moving to

centre following David Lloyd-Jones' departure with damaged ribs.

But the customary three-quarter cohesion was not evident — undoubtedly influenced by the unavailability of skipper Huw Thomas, who badly fractured his arm against Narberth last week.

Llanharan capitalised on this and scored a killer try through centre Kevin Jones, converted by Morris, and made the game safe minutes from time when lock Ken Cornelius crossed wide out.

On reflection, Llandovery's young team will have gained invaluable experience this year and can look forward to next season knowing that on their day, they can match the best. Taking a point of Treorchy is testimony to that.

Like father, like son



● **FAMILY AFFAIR:** Swansea RFC's Shane McIntosh is pictured after presenting Llandovery RFC's father and son duo Noel and Phil Page with their awards during the club's presentation night. Phil won the third team player of the year award and Noel was presented with a cap to mark his 20 years service as a player for the club.

Photo: Richard Firstbrook.

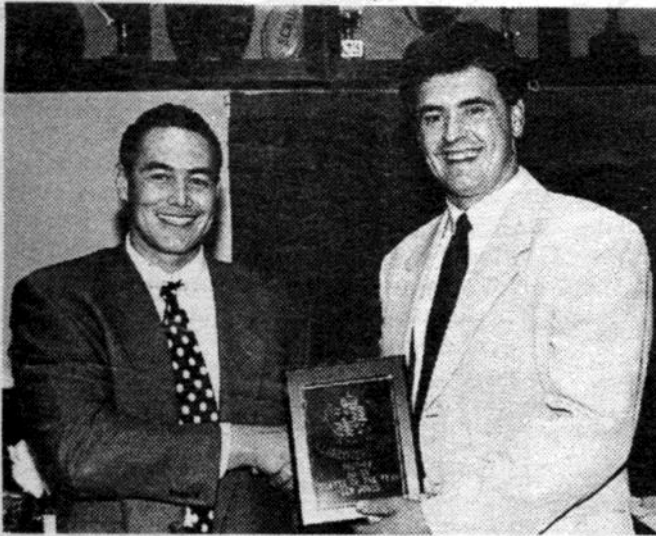


Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams

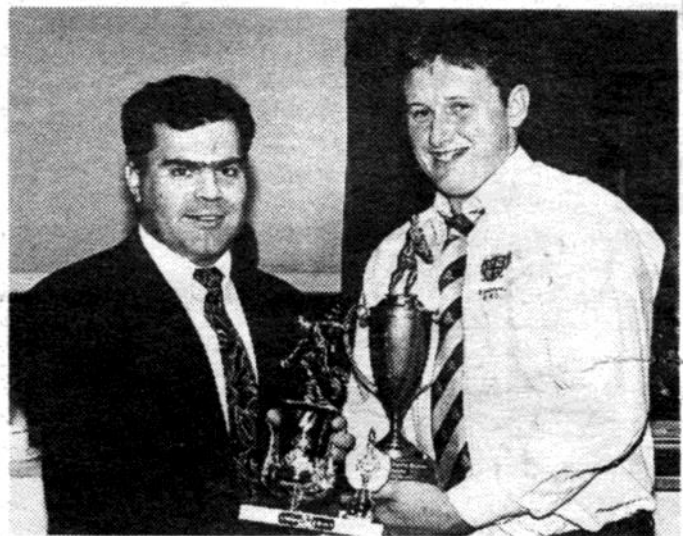
June 23rd, 1994

Top Drivers



● LLANDOVERY'S player of the year Ian Jones receives his plaque from Swansea RFC's Shane McIntosh.

Photo: Richard Firstbrook.



● MOST improved player of the year John Hughes is pictured receiving the Rhodri Hughes Trophy from Swansea and Wales star Aled Williams.

Photo: Richard Firstbrook



● SWANSEA RFC's Shaun McIntosh presents the second team player of the year trophy to Carwyn Jones.

Photo: Richard Firstbrook



● CLUB president Dr Tyssul Williams is pictured presenting Wyn Williams with a tankard in recognition of his outstanding service to the club.

Photo: Richard Firstbrook.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1992-94 ww06

Courtesy Wyn Williams



● **TEAM BUILDER:** Llandovery RFC Under-11s are pictured in their new kit sponsored by builder Rusty Jones. Pictured back row from left to right are John Davies and Pc David Thomas (coaches), Aran Hawliczek, Christopher Thomas, Daniel Jones, Andrew Griffiths, Rhodri Thomas, Daniel Eifion Pengelly, Craig Ferguson, Gareth Augustus, Rusty Jones and Mrs Helen Thomas. Front row: Dylan Davies, Rhys Davies, Gareth Carpenter, Elgan Thomas, Martin Jones (capt), Dylan Jones, Tomos Price, Gavin Davies and Aled Davies.



● Pictured are Llandovery RFC Under-10 side along with coaches Pc David Thomas and John Davies, and Mrs Helen Thomas. From left to right back row: Daniel Thomas, Gareth Carpenter, Richard Stroud, Dafydd Thomas, Stephen Tandy, Celfin Davies and Martin Jones. Front row: Deian Augustus, Alun Jones, Rhys Davies captain, Robert Forsyth, Gwyn Pengelly and Aled Davies.



SLOW START FOR DROVERS

LLANDOVERY started their third season in Division Two of the Heineken League on Saturday with a home game once again, Penarth providing the opening opponents.

The game was evenly balanced during the first half, although the Penarth forwards unquestionably offered greater controlled ball to their back division.

With the advantage of a strong wind at their backs, the Drovers took the lead with a well struck drop goal by Dai Lloyd-Jones, and the same player extended the lead with a penalty just before half-time.

As usual at Church Bank, when the wind exerts its customary influence, it appeared that six points was not going to be a sufficient lead for the home team.

Sure enough, man of the match Craig Miller reduced the deficit with a drop goal immediately after the restart.

With seven players making their

Llandovery 6
Penarth 13

Heineken debuts, Llandovery were unable to find a pattern to launch sustained attacks, and they were also hindered by an injury to experienced centre Alun Thomas, coupled with some mysterious refereeing decisions.

Penarth took the lead with their first real three-quarter movement when Alan Rosser split the defence and sent left wing Roger Phillips hurtling in at the corner.

Miller converted superbly from the touchline, and sealed the Drovers' fate with a penalty 10 minutes from time.

To their credit the home eight produced a late rally which offered them half a dozen five meter scrums under the visitors posts, knowing that a converted try would have salvaged a point.

The Penarth defence held firm, however, and Miller's clearance kick to half way meant the end of any hopes of a draw.

● One point worthy of note is the fact that the last time Llandovery lost their opening game of the season four years ago, they proceeded to win the fourth division title!



● SPIN IT: Llandovery try to set their backs in motion during Saturday's Heineken League opener against Penarth on Saturday. Report Page 39.

Llandovery RFC 1994-95



● Pictured is the Llandovery RFC squad which kicked off the Heineken League Division Two season against Penarth



Police collar Drovers

LLANDOVERY went down to their second successive defeat of the season at Church Bank on Saturday, against a lively Police unit featuring a very powerful back row and fast, straight-running, three-quarters.

Llandovery held their own in the lines-out through some good work by Ian Jones and John Westgarth, while the front row of Paul Jones, Aled Davies and Andrew Jones provided a solid platform for some powerful scrummaging.

However, despite two breaks by Stuart Richards and Geraint John in mid-field, the backs were not able to penetrate a strong police defence.

Tries for Llandovery were scored by Arwel Rowlands and Stuart Richards, one in each half.

David Lloyd-Jones kicked a penalty

Llandovery 15 South Wales Police 23

in the first half to make the half-time score 8-8, and Stuart Richards converted his own penalty later in the game.

But by that time all was lost, since two tries and a penalty from the police had taken the score to 23-8.

Features of the game were the outstanding display by police number eight Ian Hemberrow and the tackling of Llandovery's Geraint John and David Lloyd-Jones.

The Drovers are missing the generalship of injured captain Huw Thomas, but when the young side gel together, the results will surely come.

On Saturday, Llandovery are away to Tenby. Supporters are welcome — bus leaves at 11.45am.

Drovers show some encouraging signs

LLANDOVERY will go into this week's Heineken League Division Two match against Aberavon still looking for their first win of the season, but there were signs of improvement at Tenby on Saturday.

Playing with a strong wind at their backs Tenby soon went into a six point lead, but Llandovery held out until just before half time.

When it looked as if

Tenby 18 Llandovery 8

Llandovery had weathered the storm, two crucial tries, set up by Tenby's pack and scored by scrum-half Steve Wake and number eight Mike Evans, saw Tenby move into an 18-3 lead. Llandovery's reply came from a Stuart Richards penalty.

Playing with the wind in the second half, the Drovers exerted plenty of

pressure, but a masterly display of defensive kicking by Ben Childs kept them out for most of the half.

Eventually, with the move of the game, Llandovery scored an excellent try through Stuart Richards, but that was all they had to show for all the pressure they applied.

Injuries to three key players — Arwel Rowlands, lock John Westgarth and prop Paul Jones — all of whom had

to be replaced — no doubt affected the side's rhythm, although their replacements did not let the side down, and gained valuable experience in the process.

Number eight Nigel Clarke showed up well on his first appearance of the season.

One or two scoring chances went begging through a little uncertainty and lack of confidence, but there were some pluses for the Llandovery side to build on.

Total transformation!

THERE was a complete transformation in this Llandovery side in claiming a clear victory over previously unbeaten Ebbw Vale at Church Bank.

With the score standing at 3 points each at half time through a David Lloyd-Jones dropped goal, the Drovers took charge in the second half and played with far more commitment and determi-

Llandovery 19 pts Ebbw Vale 9

nation than they had shown hitherto this season.

John Westgarth and Ian Jones won a stream of possession in the linesout, while the back row kept the Ebbw Vale half backs in check.

The front five scrummaged well although they were occasionally on the

retreat against the heavier visiting pack.

David Lloyd-Jones kept the visitors pinned back in their '22' with long raking kicks and scrum-half Adrian Davies kept driving his forwards on in the loose and tight.

When the home side spun the ball centre Geraint John made some telling breaks in mid-field and from one of the moves flanker Adrian Williams was on hand to score the

only try of the game, converted by full back Stuart Richards, who also kicked three penalty goals.

Llandovery's strength in depth was also seen to advantage when four replacements (three backs and one forward) had to come on for injured players and immediately slotted in admirably.

● Llandovery's next Heineken League match is on Saturday, October 15 away to Bonymaen.