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Hydref 2009 October

# Auckland Welsh Club Newsletter

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**The boys in full song in the 4 nations**

**“Wales defeated England ....Now that’s  
my favourite line”**

**Story and pictures inside.**

**Please note the clubs contact details have changed to  
the below, If your details have changed please email  
the club.**

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# NEWS AND EVENTS



*David Williams playing v Thames Valley*

Congratulations to David Williams who made the Auckland U-85's Representative side for 2009 and has been selected to play for the NZ Barbarians side to tour Australia in March 2010.



*David taking a breather during the final four nations game. (after playing for Auckland earlier in the day)*



Cardiff Blues Choir are singing on the morning of the Wales v NZ game in Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay about Middy. If you are heading over to watch the game be sure to catch this free event earlier in the day. Let them know you are from Auckland Welsh and they will be sure to look after you.



Congratulations to Barry and Rhonda on the birth of Sian Megan Thomas, sister to Cerys Nia. She was born on 1st October 2009 weighing 8lbs. The Dad is as proud as punch whilst the Mum is enjoying time at home with Sian. Cerys absolutely adores her baby sister.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Our deepest sympathy to Keith Nelson, his Family and Friends over the passing of Aldyth Nelson - Wife, Mother and Grandmother on the 30th September.

If any member has any event to celebrate, milestone birthdays, births or other events that you would like your fellow members to know about please let the club know via email.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NEW MEMBERS:**

- |               |               |               |                   |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Melanie Peat  | Anne McLeod   | Martin Kerley | Deon Alsop        |
| Natasha Quick | Ray Lawson    | Michelle John | Darren Bloomfield |
| Bryan McLeod  | Maggie Lawson | Shaun Barron  |                   |

**The Club has a Cariatd account which can help people through hard times. If you are in difficulty contact a committee member and all dealings will be entirely confidential.**

# VIEW FROM the NEST



Well here we go again , all Welsh people worldwide are holding their breath in anticipation of an event to come in ten days time. Just to explain to the people who are not Welsh, its just like buying a lotto ticket and having the anticipation of wining a big prize on the weekend, but really knowing yourself that you are not going to win. The event I am talking about of course is the All Blacks v Wales in the Millennium Stadium. We have carried this monkey of defeat on our back since our last win in 1953. We now have one of our better chances to win because the All Blacks in my opinion are certainly one of the weakest sides to leave New Zealand. Even the Golden Boys McCaw and Carter can not be compared to their great selves of two years ago. With the disruption of the Coaching Triumvirate demoting Hansen from Forward Coach and the ridiculous training methods adopted for the lineout, where they train by standing on folding tables. I am sure that the Northern opposition will not allow them to be carried on to the field. But you never know with the All Blacks - like the sometimes childish behaviour over the haka they may try and get the tables on the field somehow. In my humble opinion there is not much chance of them wining many lineouts without the folding table advantage.

There is also major problems going with the rugby in NZ because we are really scraping the bottom layers of the rugby barrel if the provincial championship is anything to go by. Apart from one or two notable players they are like a bunch of high school boys running around clueless on the field. There is no forward hard men to lead them going forward. AS far as I can see there are no playmakers in the mould of Grant Fox apart from one who will achieve high honours in the next two or three years Aaron Cruden from Manawatu. He is destined for greatness. If he is not appreciated by the All Black selectors he will possibly join the mass exodus to the North. This could be the beginning of the end for the All Black Machine.

The Welsh will put up a good fight against the All Blacks this year because of the decimation of the Welsh forwards by the British Lions trip to South Africa we are still suffering significantly from injury. However Martyn Williams and Gethin Jenkins have returned from the respective injury layoffs, any team with these two players will have at least a fifty percent chance of beating any side in the world let alone this current All Black side.

The future of the Welsh Club is tied in very much with the next two years, quite possibly these years will be the biggest ever for the Club. With the Welsh tour in June next year, who so I understand from Dai Vinci are playing South Africa in a pretour game on June 5th in Millennium Stadium then a Major unnamed province on 15th June in NZ. The following year we have the Rugby World Cup with many games in Auckland and a perfect opportunity for the Club to demonstrate unity and progressive thinking to the world and Welsh immigrants in general. With our association with Teachers Eastern Rugby Club the Club will be running many functions throughout this period, with our hope that many of the visiting rugby teams and choral groups will also use the Club as base. Four weeks ago we continued our burgeoning friendship with the Scottish and Irish communities and will hold two joint celebrations throughout the year with these societies. There is a strong possibility by the end of January 2010 that we as a club will have a place we can call home, our own club house.

Catch you later. **Barrie.P**

## The Autumn Internationals

### Wales Squad:

**Backs** - D Biggar, G Cooper, J Davies, T James, L Halfpenny, J Hook, M Jones, S Jones, D Peel, J Roberts, M Roberts, T Shanklin, S Williams.

**Forwards** - H Bennett, L Charteris, B Davies, P James, G Jenkins, A-W Jones, Duncan Jones, Dafydd Jones, R Jones (capt), D Lydiate, C Mitchell, A Powell, M Rees, J Thomas, S Warburton, M Williams.

### All Blacks Squad:

John Afoa, Anthony Boric, Dan Carter, Jimmy Cowan, Wyatt Crockett, Mike Delany, Stephen Donald, Tom Donnelly, Jason Eaton, Andy Ellis, Tamati Ellison, Corey Flynn, Owen Franks, Zac Guildford, Andrew Hore, Cory Jane, Jerome Kaino, Tanerau Latimer, Brendon Leonard, Luke McAlister, Richie McCaw (captain), Liam Messam, Mils Muliaina, Ma'a Nonu, Kieran Read, Sitiveni Sivivatu, Ben Smith, Conrad Smith, Rodney So'oialo, Adam Thomson, Brad Thorn, Neemia Tialata, Tony Woodcock.



### Fixtures for Wales and NZ (Times are NZ)

#### 8 November:

**Wales** v **All Blacks** (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 0615 )

#### 14 November:

**Wales** v Samoa (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 0830 )

#### 15 November:

Italy v **All Blacks** (Stadio San Siro, Milan, 0400)

#### 22 November:

**Wales** v Argentina (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 0330 )

England v **All Blacks** (Twickenham, London, 0330)

#### 29 November:

France v **All Blacks** (Stade Velodrome, Marseilles, 0845)

**Wales** v Australia (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 0615 )

#### 6 December:

Barbarians v **All Blacks** (Twickenham, London, 0430)



Dai Campbell would like to thank Ged Hall's grandmother for sending him a plaque with the following poem on it

'To be born Welsh  
is to be born privileged,  
not with a silver spoon in your mouth,  
but music in your blood,  
and poetry in your soul.'  
and he sends her the following message.

Hi Margaret,  
Thanks so much for sending me a plaque  
with these words on it... and thanks for  
having a part in making a great guy called  
Ged!  
All the best Margaret,  
Love  
Dai



## A Welsh Birds Eye View

Oi! What occurring?

Well, I never, finally peace has broken out between the regions and WRU.

Obviously the WRU after reading my article last month and decided to take my advice and it sorted out!! This is cracking news for the homeland, the players, the fans and Gatters in the long term, however, the welsh rugby cynic in me wonders for long this agreement will last?

But for now this is a MIRACLE for welsh rugby and I for will be taking all the credit for!! LOL!

At this rate I will be in the running for welsh person of the year, ha ha! As I managed to pull a few strings and get my old Da some Wales v NZ, and Wales v Australia tickets for the Autumn Internationals, (Cheers to "Tom the Voice" for getting them free- Tidy!) The eternal optimistic in me believes we have a tidy chance of cracking the All Black Hoodoo this year and getting an Aussie scalp in the process.

The latest news from Swansea is that Gav has been left out of the Ospreys team! This is shocking news!

Oi Gav what is occurring mate? I knows you like a tan but taking off more time to top it up over winter is now taking the mickey!

We all know that Gav's a typical lad from Bridgend, tidy with a cracking bit of talent but I am worried he is doing the quickest vanishing act welsh rugby has ever seen.

Drastic action may be required when I am back next month, a quiet word in his shell-like will have to be done, as I'm not convinced he is getting the necessary spiritual guidance from his committed church lifestyle. Fair dues, Charlotte can't be blamed for anything of this as she has her hands full with two kids! So my advice when I collar Gav will be what's going on Gav! You're a tidy lad with a cracking talent, don't waste it love. This is he or isn't he going to play is doing my head in!

Praise where Praise is due, cracking night the AWC organised regarding the 'Poems and Pints'- 60 people came along! Tidy! The harpist was fabulous and I felt like I was back home in Swansea down the pub!

Well can't wait for the Autumn Internationals—as I will be there! A can of Brains in both hands! Totally Lush! I realise this article has been short and sweet, like me!

So on that note, I will say tarrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrraaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa. See you all down the pub.

End of!

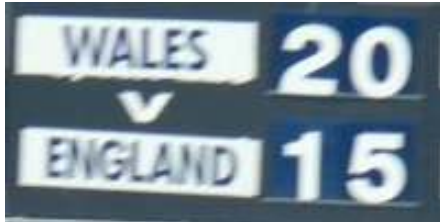
# Four Nations Rugby



*JP soars above the others in the lineout*



*Tanner going for goal.*



*Need anymore be said?*

The Tournament started on the 12th September with the team training for the five weeks previous. The first game was Wales v Ireland. It was a tough encounter with the Welsh forwards dominating the game of particular note was Darren our number 8 who had an absolutely storming game, scoring a great try in the corner. We were handicapped in a couple of key positions and the Irish took advantage of this to win the game with 27-10, the margin being somewhat flattering to the Irish.

The second week was similar, with the Welsh forwards dominating against an inferior Scottish Pack, Welsh Prop Jamie Bartlett was player of the day, again we let down by the backline. Final Score being 26-3 to the Scots. The final game was against England. There were so many there we could not budge. With the world willing and wanting a wondrous Welsh victory over the ancient foe. Strengthened this week with the addition of David Williams and Tanner Vili to the side who worked well in combination to score a wonderful try. Other tries were scored by the halfback and Paddy the Winger.

Tanner was named man of the match. The game was fantastic, with Wales grinding out a lead 20-10, before the English came back and led to heartstopping final ten minutes with the Welsh defense holding on to win 20-15. A special thanks to Coach Nigel Krone for doing such a fantastic job, also to the players and in particular Will and Gareth who were injured through the tournament.



*The injuries led uncontested scrums*



*The Game against Ireland proved to be rather passionate*



*Jamie Bartlett and Duanne Deere*

*The victorious Welsh side who played and defeated the English.*



## The Dai Vinci Column

In Wales, the month of September has brought blue skies, long sunny spells and of course the start of the rugby season.

The Welsh boys on the Lions tour of South Africa did us proud with Jamie Roberts being the official Man-of-the-Tour. The many success stories including Mathew 'Smiler' Rees who, as I am sure your editor reminds you, is from Tonyrefail.

Unfortunately and inevitably injuries took their toll and Adam is out of the November tests and it will be a race against time to get Gethin 'The Melon' Jenkins fit in time. All the remaining Lions will be back playing by the end of September, ready for the Heineken Cup games in October and the November tests starting with the All Blacks game on the 7th, kick off 5.15pm UK time.



An outbreak of peace has broken out between the Welsh Rugby Union and the 4 Welsh Regions in their long running and complex dispute over the release of our international players. A 5 year legal document has been signed by both parties. The immediate benefit is all players will be released for all future tests and coach Warren Gatland will get a 13 day training period before the games. The regions will be restricted in signing overseas players and in return will get an extra £2.4 million per season. This will be funded by Wales playing extra international matches, up to a maximum of 13 per year. The Welsh players will also be restricted in the number of games they play each season.

The new season has seen the Cardiff Blues rugby team play in the brand new 27,000 capacity Cardiff City stadium which they share with Cardiff City soccer team. It has not done them much good as they have yet to win there having lost 2 friendly and one league game.

Has anybody out there seen Welsh centre Gavin Henson? It sounds like one of these TV soap operas. At present he is on unpaid compassionate leave from his region the Ospreys. No one knows when, or if, he will ever return to play rugby again. He has been frustrated by his constant injuries and has threatened to quit the game. At least, this is the official line.

No doubt being the partner of A-listed celebrity Charlotte Church has had its influence. With an estimated joint wealth of £12 million, off the field Gavin leads a reclusive celebrity lifestyle with Charlotte and their 2 young children in their mansion in the Vale of Glamorgan. He is only 27 years old and wasting that brilliant multi-skilled rugby talent he has. As he is not in the public eye, he has lost all his commercial contracts and has no income from rugby or anywhere else. In 4 or 5 years time his rugby talent will be worthless. Will he then become a full time house husband while his celebrity partner is out making millions using her considerable musical talents? A question for you ladies out there. If you were Charlotte would you put up with this situation?

Perhaps the real reason for Gavin's mysterious absence has yet to be revealed. As you can imagine the rumours are starting to be heard in the gossip filled world of South Wales.

**CYMRU AM BYTH!**  
Dai Vinci



## Who are the Red Dragons?

The Red Dragons were formed in 2008, so far they have played against many different cultural sides including Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands, Indonesia, South Korea, Ethiopia and notably Thailand. In our first tournament we were winners of a Plate in the Pasefika tournament. In the 2009 competition we lost in the semi-finals.

Wherever we go we are known as the Welsh team, carrying Draig Goch proudly on our chests and The Colours of the St. David Cross on our Away strip.

We entered the Sunday League for the first time and performed admirably being the most popular team in the division. Welcomed by all we played. Welshness was promoted at every opportunity.



Gary Brady  
*Player of the Year*



Conor Friel a Red Dragon stalwart  
*We will miss him next year*



BDP and Adam Taylor

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## Red Dragons Captains Report 2009

by Adam Taylor.

The inaugural Winter season of the Red Dragons kicked off with a bang. A bang the size of a 4-2 win. And we thought, if that bang was anything to go by, the season would be plain sailing. As it turned out, there were stormy waters ahead, and not much plain sailing at all.

We soon discovered how tough our league was, and to make things even harder, we had a bit of a personnel change in the opening rounds. But with new players blooded in, the Dragons marched on, and gave it their all.

Building a team from scratch is tough, and finding fifteen guys willing to trade a lie-in for a blisteringly cold Sunday afternoon isn't easy either. In fact, it's pretty difficult. Some weeks we only had the starting 11, but still competed and gave whoever we were playing a run for their money. And with a solid core turning up week in, week out, the side held together and played some great football. We had some good results, and some not so good results, but for a team that had just started out, didn't practice, stayed up late on Saturdays and hadn't played together before, we did really well.

And after just one season, I can proudly say we've got an arch nemesis (Thailand), a bogey team (AUT) and a team we always managed to get a result against (Manatu). And it's these rivalries (and mouth-watering prospects of paying someone their dues,) that will keep this club ticking year after year. So all in all, it's been 14 weeks of learning, building, and most importantly, enjoying the football.

We may have been short of wins this season, but there were a few things we definitely didn't lack. The team showed a whole lot of heart throughout the season and despite often being up against it, our never-say-die attitude kept us in the fight. It was this mentality that took us through a tough, but enjoyable winter.

A huge thank you has to go to the founding organizers of the Red Dragons. I'd just like to thank Gren, Barrie and BJ for their tireless efforts in making this team possible, and for sticking in there when times got tough.

The first season for any team is rarely about success. It's about establishing a foundation for the future. And if we can keep the core of the team from this year, and develop it in the off-season, we'll be a stronger, more rounded side next winter. Ready to knock AUT right off the pitch.



*Gary Brady*



*Adam Taylor*



*Gren Jones*

### Red Dragons Prize Giving 2009

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Player of the Year: | Gary Brady   |
| Runner Up:          | Adam Taylor  |
| Managers Award:     | Paul Vlasic  |
| Players Player:     | Adam Taylor  |
| Most Improved:      | Kishan Modha |
| Golden Boot:        | Adam Taylor  |
| Team Man:           | Gren Jones   |
| Supporter:          | Ami Taylor   |



*Adam Taylor*



*Ami Taylor*



*Paul Vlasic*

## FUTURE EVENTS

### November 8

615am **Father Teds**, Corner of Queen St and Wellesley Sts, Auckland, are showing the **Wales v NZ** game. If anybody wants to come along and have a breakfast (with a couple of celebratory pints...) let us know so we can arrange the numbers for catering.

Contact Barrie on 8360722

### December 12

Rocky Nook Bowls Club, Fowlds Park, Mt Albert.

#### **Traditional Christmas Ceilidh (Scottish dance) with top band Twisty Willow,**

From 7pm

Don't miss what will be a sell-out night as popular band Twisty Willow teach you to Gay Gordon like a pro and dance The Dashing White Sergeant.

This will be a whole evening of Scottish dancing with full instruction and everyone is welcome – dancers and non dancers alike will love it.

A traditional-ish Scottish BBQ supper and a wee dram will also be provided.

Tickets \$25 by emailing [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto:suzstick@hotmail.com)

### Committee Contact Details

*(all correspondence to be directed to Secretary)*

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Pres. Derek Lewis    | 358 5888    |
| V-P Barrie Partridge | 021 1086937 |
| Treas. B-J Partridge | 021 2941078 |
| Sec Ami Taylor       |             |

#### *Committee*

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Gren Jones      | 029 4138900      |
| Dai Campbell    | 027 024280       |
| Rob Addy        | 021 2118272      |
| George Parry    | 09 420 2177      |
| Meredydd Barrar | 836 6389         |
| Derek Williams  | <b>SUSPENDED</b> |

Next Committee Meeting: 7:30pm 9th November 2009, Galbraiths Alehouse, Members welcome.

**Please Note: The Clubs new contact details are as follows.**

**Postal:** PO Box 19555, Avondale, Auckland

**Email:** [aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.aucklandwelshclub.com](http://www.aucklandwelshclub.com)

### 31st January 2010

Mystery Wine Trail.

Approximate cost \$40.

Tickets very limited.

Book now to avoid disappointment.

50% deposit required.

### 28th February 2010 (St. Davids Celebrations)

We would like input as to how you want to celebrate St. David's Day. Perhaps all day outdoor celebration is more your cup of tea.

All suggestions welcome as it is your day.

### Wales Rugby Tour 2010

19th June (Hamilton)

26th June (Dunedin)

AWC will be organizing bus trips and events surrounding the two test match dates. Tickets will be extremely limited for these events, so be advised to register your interest with the club early. You will not want to miss out.



**If you are in need of assistance at any time, or know of any member who may need a bit of help or support, can you please contact a committee member. We cannot help you if we don't know where help is needed**

### Sponsors of the Red Dragon's

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Thanks to the contributors to this newsletter who included: Barrie Partridge, B-J Partridge, John Dowden, Adam Taylor, Gren Jones, Dai Campbell and DB. If you wish to have an article or opinion to place in the next newsletter please forward it to the club email address: [aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com)