

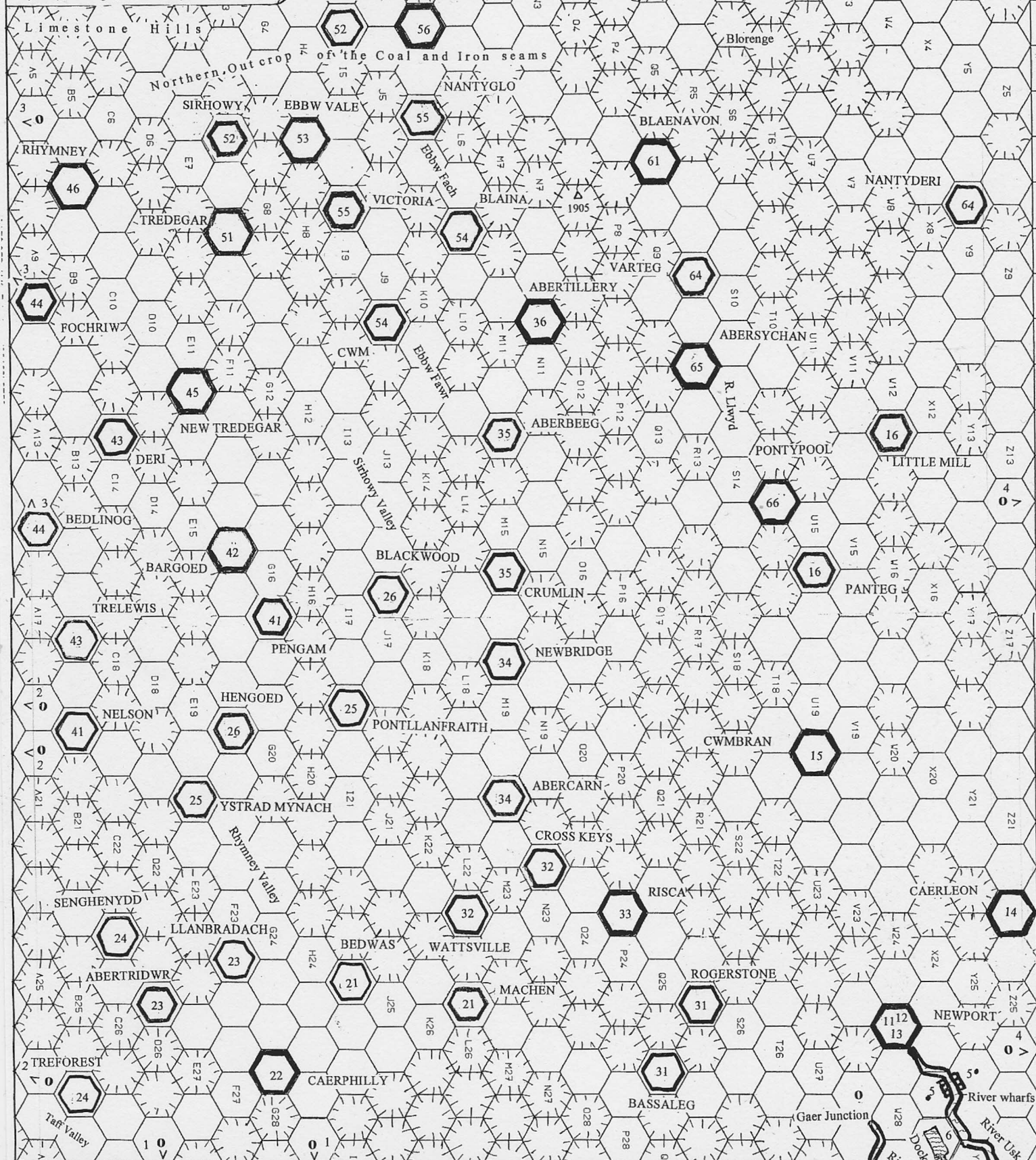
# Railway Rivals GV: GWENT VALLEYS

Edition 1a, Feb 2011 © DG Watts, 1973, 2011.

Scale 1 hex = 1 Km [about 0.6 Miles]

Start: Newport or Gaer Junction [V27] or ABERGAVENNY

Alternative for 4 players: one each at Rhymney, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, and Blaenavon.



**Special Runs:** 1: To Cardiff: connection at D28, H28, or U30. At Crumlin was Britain's highest viaduct: 205 ft above the River Ebbw. A most important historical monument – the first major use of the Warren truss girder, and a model for many viaducts world wide. It was demolished in 1965, after featuring in the film Arabesque.  
 2: To Mid-Glamorgan: A19, A20, or A27.  
 3: To Merthyr Tydfil: connection at A6, Fochriw, or Bedlinog.  
 4: To England: connection at Abergavenny, Z14, or Z26.  
 5: Newport Riverside Wharfs: X27 or Y 27. 6: Newport Dock.  
 Paired 'half' towns: the first of a pair reached is worth 4 pts; the other 2 pts. This was demolished as far back as 1937, being redundant after the 1923 mergers. The hills mostly rise to around 1500ft; highest point 1905 ft E. of Blaena. This area was first important for its great ironworks along the N. edge [Rhymney thru Blaenavon to Pontypool] which died off from 1860. They were served by many horse-drawn tramroads, connecting with mines & quarries, the canals and Newport. From the 1850's, the 'new' railways [some converted from the old tramroads] carried millions of tons of coal annually to Newport and Cardiff, till the last mines closed in the 1990's. Most railways have vanished, not converted to busy commuter lines as at Cardiff. Even the reopened Ebbw Vale line [2008] runs to Cardiff, via Gaer Junction, not Newport!

The Barry Railway's half-mile long viaduct at Llanbradach was built so that it could reach the Brecon & Merthyr Ry without using the Rhymney Ry [The two ran parallel from Rhymney to Llanbradach/G47; Rhymney to Cardiff, B&M to Newport].  
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