

LONDON IRISH R.F.C.



22/1/80
v Gloucester

**The Avenue
Sunbury on Thames**

20p

London Irish

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 15 | PAUL O'DONNELL ‡ |
| 14 | JIM BATES ‡ |
| 13 | ROGER MCKIBBIN |
| 12 | TONY WATKINSON ° ‡ |
| 11 | CLIVE MEANWELL ‡ |
| 10 | HUGH CONDON * ‡ |
| 9 | GRAHAM PAIGE |
| 1 | ALEX NEWBERRY ‡ |
| 2 | GUY BERINGER °* |
| 3 | A. N. OTHER |
| 4 | DAVID McCRACKEN * |
| 5 | MIKE SMYTHE * |
| 6 | WALTER JONES ° ‡ |
| 8 | STEWART MCKINNEY |
| 7 | JOHN O'DRISCOLL ‡* (Capt) |
| | DAN DONOHUE |
| | PHIL RICE |

Saturday, 22nd November, 1980—k.o. 2.45 p.m.

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| FULL BACK | THREE-QUARTERS |
| RIGHT WING | |
| RIGHT CENTRE | |
| LEFT CENTRE | |
| LEFT WING | |
| STAND OFF | HALF-BACKS |
| SCRUM HALF | |
| PROP | FORWARDS |
| HOOKER | |
| PROP | ‡ International |
| SECOND ROW | ‡ Blue |
| SECOND ROW | ‡ County |
| WING | * Inter-Provincial |
| LOCK | Referee: |
| WING | A. Ivison, Esq. |
| REPLACEMENTS | (Cumbria Society) |

Gloucester

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| P. FORD | 15 |
| P. CONWAY | 14 |
| P. HOWELL ‡ | 13 |
| P. WILLIAMS | 12 |
| R. CLEWES ‡ | 11 |
| C. PRYCE ‡ | 10 |
| S. BAKER | 9 |
| P. BLAKEWAY † ‡ | 1 |
| S. MILLS ‡ (Capt) | 2 |
| S. ASHMEAD | 3 |
| J. ORWIN ‡ | 4 |
| A. TURTON ‡ | 5 |
| J. GADD | 6 |
| M. TEAGUE | 8 |
| M. LONGSTAFF | 7 |

● Today's Match Ball is kindly sponsored by LIAM CASHIN of SAUDIA AIRLINES ●

Good afternoon, and a warm welcome to West Countrymen Gloucester and their supporters. With the County playing today (to which our visitors supply seven players), Gloucester still travel with a very strong side because of their strength in depth. One has only to look at the team to see they can still call on six or seven County men, with British Lion Phil Blakeway thrown in.

Their results this season reads, played 21, won 16 and lost five. Their last win being on Tuesday night by 15pts to 13pts against Aberavon. In recent years, games between the two clubs have been rather close. In 1977 we won here by 9pts to 6pts. In 1978, in a morning game, we lost 10pts to 12pts, also here.

Last season the Irish won by 12pts to 3pts at Kingsholm. Having welcomed our visitors, I might as well do the same for the Irish. In the ten games played so far this season, only three have been played at home. This of course hits the club financially, through lack of gate receipts and bar takings. Blame my colleague, Ray McLennan, who arranges the fixtures!!

It is also most heartening to see a near full strength side out for the first time this year. After starting the season so poorly, mainly because of injuries and non-availability of key players, let's hope we turned the corner last Saturday with that fine display at Waterloo, winning by 12pts to 6pts. Moss Finn, playing at out-half, showed his class by scoring a great try and also dropping a goal in the last minutes of the game. Stewart McKinney, back after nine weeks out through injury, also made a big contribution in the forwards, setting up a lot of good balls for his backs, and when fully match fit will be some man to be reckoned with in the pack. Twenty-five times capped and a 1974 Lion, McKinney in fact makes his first team Sunbury debut today alongside O'Driscoll and Jones. Second row Mike Smythe is also in today after missing last week with a back injury.

In the three-quarters we welcome back Paul O'Donnell from his Ulster duties. Paul must be in line for a 'B' cap on December 6th after his fine performances for the province. Moss Finn is away with Munster in Dublin today, so old hand Hugh Condon wears the No. 10 shirt this afternoon. As I said, let's hope we have turned the corner.

In the Surrey Cup, which we have entered this year for the first time, we are in to the last sixteen, having easily accounted for Harrodians and the Law Society. The next game in the competition is here on Sunday, December 14, against Chipstead.

Chief talent spotter and Captain of the B2 XV, Tommy Hynes has asked me to mention to the selectors that it might be worth while sending someone along to watch his unbeaten side the only one in the club, having scored 374, against 47, in their ten games. Someone did go along last season and found Jim Sheehan. God only knows who Tommy has down there. He

is the only man I know who comes to selection and reads out 14 A. N. Others and himself.

While I am down among the junior ranks, I must mention a rather unusual set of events which happened one Sunday recently. A friendly match between two old boys' teams took place here. One of the teams was three men short, so up to the bar came the Captain looking for volunteers to top out. Sure enough three Old Wise Men, in the shape of Club Secretary Ronnie Johnston, Club Golf Captain Brian Little and the Club's biggest man, John Barberri, downed drinks and donned jockstraps. Well, within half an hour, big John was back in the bar looking for his drink after Jack had patched him up for a split head. Little was next with a pulled hamstring; Johnston was carried off a minute later with a more serious knee injury which required ten stitches. A fourth Wise Old Man, Tommy Joy, who was watching all this, cracked: "They were told it's only Mass on Sundays". We wish them a speedy recovery.

On a rather sad note, two of our older members have recently passed away. The are: Kevin Dobbs of Plumstead, and George White from Folkestone, a County member for more than twenty years.

Social Roundup: Saturday, 6th December—The club holds a Big Christmas Party here at Sunbury, commencing 8.30pm—similar to our recent successful social evening.

A top-class disco will supply the music downstairs, with top Irish music, ballads and ceilis in the bar. Food will be available and a late bar. There will also be a monster raffle with the draw taking place at midnight—prizes include B+I Line voucher to the value of £50; autographed match ball from that afternoon's game with Plymouth Albion; a London Irish plaque, etc., etc. Raffle tickets will be on sale during the match and in the evening. The winning ticket numbers will be published in the following week's programme. So if you win and are not there on the night to claim it, Noel Traynor promises to keep it for you. There will be no re-draws. We urge all members and friends to come along and make this evening a huge success. It only costs £1.50.

Mine host at The Ebury Arms, Barry Byrne, has come up with an ingenious scheme now being held at his place in The Edwardian Rooms every Saturday night. For only £10.00 a head (£8.00 for the lady) you can eat, drink and dance as much as you wish from 9.00pm to 1.30am. Food consists of one hot dish and a big cold buffet selection plus any drink you wish, and as many as you wish. Dancing to a fabulous disco, also Irish cabaret till 1.30am. If you don't believe me, ring Barry on 01-730 4270.

And finally, Noel McGinn who is organising next Saturday night's London Irish Dress-Dance at the Winning Post, is delighted to inform us that it is completely booked out (with 50 over subscribed). Of the 250 tickets sold only 18 were taken by London Irish members. Enough said!

M. FLATLEY (Ex "A")