



Founded 1867

Official Programme
TEN PENCE — 10p

1980-81

114th SEASON

Saturday, 17th January, 1981

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

FOUNDED 1867

Wasps v Gloucester

19 9

GROUND

Repton Avenue, Sudbury,

Wembley, Middlesex. *CP*

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WASPS		GLOUCESTER	
<i>CP</i> 15	N. STRINGER	15	P. FORD <i>PC</i>
<i>T</i> 14	R. PELLOW	14	R. CLEWES <i>P. Conway</i> <i>T</i>
13	I. PERKINS	13	P. TAYLOR
12	M. TAYLOR* (Capt.)	12	P. HOWELL
11	R. COLE	11	R. MOSE <i>P. Tunstall</i>
10	R. HUGHES	10	C. PRYCE
9	N. MELVILLE	9	S. BAKER
1	P. RENDALL	1	G. SARGENT
2	A. SIMMONS	2	S. MILLS (Capt.)
<i>T</i> 3	P. HUNTSMAN	3	S. ASHMEAD
4	P. HARRISON	4	S. BOYLE
5	J. BONNER	5	J. FIDLER
6	M. LEGGETT	6	J. GADD
8	K. SMITH	8	M. TEAGUE
7	J. LAMDEN	7	M. LONGSTAFF
<i>Replacements:</i>		<i>Replacements:</i>	
16	R. STURGESS	16	
17	M. CONNER <i>Rep. 9.</i>	17	

0-3
6-3
6-9
44
10-9
13-9
19-9

Referee: R. G. James (Leicestershire Soc.)

*International

CLUB NEWS

Gloucester are particularly welcome visitors today as our last two fixtures with them were cancelled due to bad weather conditions. Last year we travelled down to Gloucester only to discover that the ground was unfit for play and in 1979, all our January fixtures were lost because of the weather.

The last time we played them therefore was in March 1978 when they visited us for the Quarter Final of the John Player Cup, a splendid game which we lost by the creditable margin of 13—3. Of today's Wasps side, only Rob Smith and John Bonner were in the selected team that day, although Mike Leggett replaced the injured Bonner early on. Gloucester went on to win the cup, beating Leicester in the final by 6—3.

This season Gloucester have won 25 of their 33 games and have scored 667 points with 371 against. Like ourselves, they have a number of very promising young players in their squad and last Saturday, when they were narrowly defeated 14—9 by Leicester, there were six 20-year-olds in their team. One of them was full back Paul Ford, who has scored 173 points this season so we shall have to guard against giving away penalties this afternoon.

Gloucester were named the 'Sunday Telegraph' English team for December as we were for October and they consequently won that now familiar methuselah of champagne. Of special interest to us is their defeat of London Scottish by 13—8 a fortnight ago as we are, of course, due to meet the Scottish in the cup next Saturday.

Today they are missing Phil Blakeway, who is in the England side at Cardiff, but should be able to field their other England squad members while we have Ian Perkins, Nick Stringer and Russell Cole back in our side. With two first team fixtures last weekend, we spread our resources and used 22 players in all. On Saturday, in dreadful conditions, we beat Exeter University (St. Luke's) by 17—0. In the first half, Nigel Melville scored after following up his own chip kick down the blind side. Robin Hughes added the conversion and a penalty goal. In the second half, there were further tries from Paul Harrison and Ian Bell. (Harrison also got two tries for Middlesex in their win over United Banks on Wednesday). On Sunday, in the fourth round of the Middlesex Cup, we beat Old Meadonians by 21—0 with tries from Steve O'Reilly (2), John Lambden and Mike Leggett, a drop goal from Robin Wood and a conversion from Nick Stringer.

The Vandals beat Blackheathens by 16—3 last Saturday with tries from Kevin Joy, Keith Bonner and Rod Lozowski, two of which were converted by Robin Wood.

In the quarter final round of the Middlesex Cup on Sunday, February 1st, we shall be playing Old Hamptonians here at Sudbury, kick-off at 2.15. We are especially grateful to get a home draw as the previous day we have a very tough away game against Bridgend. The other matches in the quarter finals are Richmond v Met. Police, Kingsburians v Saracens and Finchley v Old Gaytonians.

In an interesting article in the "Financial Times" on Monday, Peter Robbins speculated that the sad day may come when, apart from the three exiles, London will only be able to sustain three major clubs, which he feels will be Harlequins, Rosslyn Park and Wasps. He also praised our recruiting system which has certainly made a major contribution to our current successful season.

Peter Yarranton has asked me to mention a way in which club members can assist the work of the Recruitment Sub-Committee. We have started to keep a register of families and others prepared to give players, especially new recruits, initial or longer-term accommodation. The aim is to use the register to quickly place a player with a family so that he doesn't feel lost while we try to find him more permanent accommodation. Naturally we are not asking anyone to do this for nothing — the full and proper rate will be paid by the player concerned.

In addition, we would like to know of any more permanent accommodation, furnished or unfurnished, which could be used in the register and names of anyone with contacts with housing associations or the like. The register is in the good hands of Stan Hopkinson, 25 Lawns Court, The Avenue, Wembley Park, telephone numbers — 731 1366, ext. 219 (business), 904 3239 (home). We need to get this appeal across to all our members so I hope that regular readers of these notes will understand if I repeat the message from time to time. I shall certainly do so next week when we hope to have the biggest crowd of the season to date for the vital cup game against the London Scottish.