



Founded 1867

Official Programme 15p

1982-83
116th SEASON

Saturday, 15th January, 1983

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Wasps v Gloucester

GROUND
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Wembley, Middlesex.

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WASPS 9	GLOUCESTER 16
15 K. TITCOMBE	15 P. FORD
14 R. PELLOW	14 P. PRITCHARD
13 R. CARDUS*	13 R. MOGG
12 P. DAILEY	12 C. O'DONOGHUE
11 S. N'JIE	11 N. PRICE
10 M. WILLIAMS	10 L. JONES (Capt.)
9 J. CULLEN	9 S. HALL
1 M. BROOKS	1 R. PASCAL 3
2 A. SIMMONS	2 K. WHITE
3 A. ISICHEI	3 M. PREEDY 1
4 J. BONNER	4 S. BOYLE
5 N. ROBERTS	5 J. BRAIN
6 K. BONNER	6 J. GADD <i>DISPENSER</i>
8 C. ARDACH	8 J. BENNETT
7 J. LAMBDEN (Capt.)	7 P. WOOD
Replacements:	Replacements:
16 M. CAPSTICK <i>P. BURNETT</i>	16 P. PARSLOE
17 M. DUFFELEN	17 I. ROBERTS

Referee: I. Bullerwell (East Midlands Society)

*International

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 HALF TIME 13 - 9 - 16 15 19 G

CLUB NEWS

This afternoon we offer a very warm welcome to Gloucester, our friends from the West Country. In recent years the fixture has tended to be affected by the winter weather and has been cancelled three times out of the last four seasons.

On their last visit to Sudbury in January 1981, we won a thrilling game by 19—9, one of our best results in a very successful season. The previous time met the two clubs had met was in March 1978 when Gloucester visited us for the quarter final of the John Player Cup when they beat us by 13—3 and went on to win the final with Leicester by 6—3.

Paul Rendall is on the replacement bench for England today and we all sympathise with the unlucky Nick Stringer, prevented from joining him by a chipped collar bone, and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery. Our only change from last week is that Andy Dun makes a welcome return after a bout of influenza, playing at number eight as Rob Smith is still out with a damaged elbow and Francis Emeruwa is unavailable having played for the UAU team against the French Universities at Chatham yesterday.

I wrote last week that we were badly in need of a shot in the arm, never dreaming that it would instantly occur. Although we had to settle for a score of 22—22 against the powerful Llanelli side even the Western Mail wrote that "in the end the Scarlets were lucky to leave London with a draw". We were missing some key players through injury and our captain Paul Rendall was in the England squad training but we were still able to achieve a remarkable and unexpected result against a side who had only lost to Swansea and Cardiff this season. To put the icing on the cake from our point of view Llanelli took Swansea's unbeaten home record on Wednesday evening by 16—9 scoring three tries against two penalties and a dropped goal.

We played into a bright sun and a deceptively strong wind in the first half and after thirty minutes, Llanelli were leading by two penalties and began to open up the game, scoring two excellent tries both converted to give them what looked like an unassailable lead of 18—0. But in the first-half injury time Roger Pellow ran well on the wing from an unpromising situation and got the ball to Richard Cardus who headed diagonally from the touchline and scored under the posts brushing aside several attempted tackles on the way. Mark Williams converted and those six points right on half-time gave us fresh hope. Williams kicked a penalty early in the second half and then put in one of those elusive runs that seemed to hypnotise the Exeter defence a few weeks back. When the cover defence finally caught him, Francis Emurewa was well up with him to give a scoring pass to Phil Tiddy. Williams converted and went close with two long-range penalty attempts before Cardus broke through again and Tiddy crossed the line only to be brought back for a foot in touch. But we kept the pressure on and Williams put over another penalty to level the scores.

With only six minutes of play left, Llanelli scored from a five-yard scrum but their lead was short-lived. John Cullen put in a beautiful kick down the touchline and Tiddy hacked the ball on to the line where the Llanelli full-back fumbled it and enabled Nigel Roberts to get the final try. Llanelli had been team of the week in the Sunday Telegraph the previous weekend and we may well be on the shortlist for tomorrow's award.

Next year we will be playing Llanelli away at Stradey Park and with any luck we might be able to persuade Roy Morgan to organise a coach trip there, a good point at which to remind you that Roy still has room on the coach for the Fylde game next month if you contact him quickly.

The day after this epic game, eight of the team played again in the fourth round Middlesex Cup match with Wembley. Mark Williams opened the scoring with a brilliant solo try and number eight Charlie Ardach scored from a push-over before Wembley got a try in the corner from a very fast heel. Williams replied with a penalty and strong running from hooker Simon Hardy and lock John Hames brought a second try for Ardach, who completed his personal hat-trick with a try from another push-over. In the second half, Williams seized the ball from broken play on the half-way line and ran all the way to score behind the posts and add the conversion. A try to John Lambden from a short penalty brought the final score to 29—4.

We are once again drawn away in the quarter-final against Ruislip who beat Mill Hill in the previous round by 13—10 in extra time. The game will be played on Sunday, January 30th, kick-off at 2.30 p.m.

It was good to see so many Wasps at the Wembley game and I need hardly say that we look for massive support next Saturday when we take on Rosslyn Park in the John Player Cup, hoping to reverse the heavy defeat we suffered at their hands a few weeks back.

Our next home game is on January 29th against Gosforth and an early word of warning that our game against Moseley the following week will be played on the Sunday, February 6th.

Kevin O'Shea