

Official Programme

Ten Pence (Minimum price)

# RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION



FOUNDED 1867

## 1977-78

111th SEASON

**GROUND** Repton Avenue, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex

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## Club News

Today we give a warm welcome to Gloucester whom we have been playing for many years but never, of course, in the John Player Cup, & also to their loyal supporters, who one hears, will be descending on Sudbury, by road & rail, in considerable numbers, no doubt in very good voice. My first visit to Gloucester was some fifty years ago when as one of my school cadet corps camping outside Cheltenham, I & the rest of my contingent were given treat by the good people of Gloucester, who paid for the hire of a charabanc, as it was then, & taken into Gloucester for tea-jam doughnuts of course-& a visit to the Cathedral. We called at Birdlip in the Cotswolds & I shall always remember the wonderful view from there looking towards Gloucester along the old Roman road, which I imagine is something like a motorway now, complete with juggernauts. Anyway, to come back to the present, we shall no doubt find the voices of the Gloucester supporters slightly less tuneful than those of their choristers & we hope that when they come to slake their thirst at the end of the game, they will be served reasonably quickly, as our Bars will be under very abnormal pressure. Incidentally, apart from our excellent groundsman, Joe Stafford & Steward Len Brazier & two helping with the washing up in the kitchen, every single job around the ground-the Gates, the Bars, Catering, Car Park, Shop etc, is performed voluntarily, by members.

Even allowing for the ebullient vocal backing of Gloucester's supporters & the pressures that this imposed on visiting Gosforth, today's visitors' victory in the second round of the Cup was a magnificent one & well qualifies them to be considered the best Club in the country. Their record-the most recent one I have-shows that they have P. 34, W. 24, D. Nil, L. 10, for 719 points against 405, whilst our equivalent is P. 31, W. 16, D. 3, L. 12, for 488 against 333, giving them a match average of 30 to 12 & us 16 to 11. As can be seen they are a very high scoring side but if we can contain them, we could bring off a big surprise. Encouragement for the thought that this is not impossible, is contained in an analysis of our game at Gloucester, as recently as 21st, Jan., when well before half-time our opponents had built up a lead of 22 points to Nil, to win finally by 26 to 12. It is all too obvious from this that for nearly two-thirds of the game we more than held our own. & whilst it might be argued that they eased up after attaining such a lead, it can hardly be said that a side that score 719 points in 34 games is one that makes a habit of this. It is interesting sitting here & typing away in the lovely Chiltern Hills to conjecture about the result, but what really matters is what goes on, on the pitch today & let's hope that above all things-win or lose-we shall have a good clean game which is a credit to our two Clubs & to our game of rugby football. We always do so Cup or no Cup there's no reason why it should be any different. May we wish our visitors, players & non-players alike an enjoyable time today & a safe journey home. We're a friendly lot here, drawn from all over the home counties & we do heartily welcome you.

For the record, Gloucester beat near neighbours, Lydney, by 38-6, in their first round game &, as everybody knows, Gosforth by 19-10, in the second round after leading 19-Nil, five minutes from no-side. For our part, we got through the first round, in a 9-9 game of no tries with Richmond by reason of being the away side & overcame last year's finalists, Waterloo, after a thrilling game by the narrowest of margins-10-9, in the second round.

Will members please note that having disposed of Met. Police in the semi-final of the Middx County R. F. U. Cup by 13-3, we won the toss for choice of ground for the Final & this will be played, here at Sudbury against Saracens on Sunday, 19th, March, K.O. 3.00 p.m. We have won this Cup for three of the last four years & been runners-up on the other occasion & as present holders, will be anxious to retain it. There are two further items of interest to members which I will take this opportunity of mentioning & the first is that Doctor Tony Warren has now officially joined our panel of doctors, who carry out such important & valuable work in attending to injuries, as an addition to the splendid help, always gives by the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade. He has asked me not to mention his various qualifications but I can't resist saying that in addition to being well qualified to 'sew' 'em up' he has one that makes him an ideal person to deal with any 'nut' cases that show themselves..

The other item I wish to mention is again a fortunate one in that, new member David Winter is going to take over the running of our Colts side. David hails from Wolverhampton, where he had considerable success in running the Colts there, even against the more senior sides, like Rugby, who were beaten by over fifty points.

W. M.

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION CLUB COMPETITION  
JOHN PLAYER CUP (QUARTER FINAL)

SATURDAY, 11th MARCH 1978 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

**Wasps v Gloucester**

WASPS	GLOUCESTER
15 P. DAWE	15 P. BUTLER * 1 PEN 1 CON
14 A. RICHARDS (Capt)	14 R. CLEWES
13 M. WALBYOFF	13 B. VINE
12 G. GRAHAM	12 R. JARDINE
11 I. BELL	11 R. MOGG TRY
10 I. BALL 1 PEN	10 C. WILLIAMS *
9 M. CONNER	9 P. HOWELLS
1 A. ISICHEI	1 G. SARGENT
2 J. GALLAGHER	2 S. MILLS
3 L. LEWIS	3 M. BURTON *
4 J. BONNER	4 S. BOYLE
5 J. COWELL	5 J. FIDLER
6 R. SMITH	6 J. WATKINS * (Capt)
8 A. SCOTT	8 J. SIMONETT
7 A. COOPER	7 V. WOOLLEY TRY
REPLACEMENTS	REPLACEMENTS
A. RAINES	M. LONGSTAFF
M. BROOKS	D. POINTON
M. LEGGETT	P. KINGSTON
A. RAYNER	F. REED
J. WALDRON	M. CORRAN
I. GROCOTT	E. PINKNEY

Referee : L. M. PRIDEAUX (North Midlands)

\* International

Touch Judge/Reserve Referee : R. F. JOHNSON (L.S.R.F.U.R.)

NEXT HOME GAMES :

U. S. (PORTSMOUTH) Saturday, 18th March, 1978 k.o. 11.00 a.m.

SARACENS Sunday, 19th March, 1978 K.o. 3.00 p.m.

(MIDDLESEX CUP FINAL)