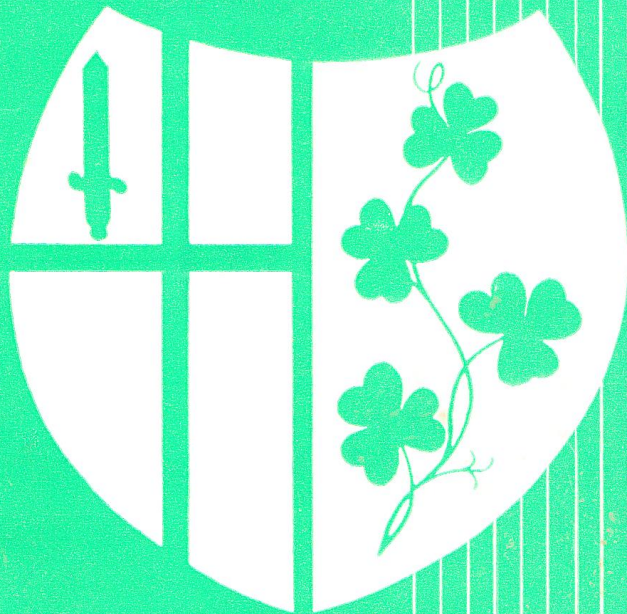


LONDON IRISH R.F.C.



**The Avenue
Sunbury on Thames**

20p

London Irish

15	PAT PARFREY †**
14	VINCENT PRITCHARD
13	JOHN O'SULLIVAN
12	ROGER McKIBBIN
11	JOHN KIRBY
10	HUGH CONDON **
9	BARRY MURPHY ‡
1	ALEX NEWBERRY ‡
2	KEN KENNEDY †**
3	LES WHITE **
4	MICK MOLLOY †*
5	MIKE SMYTHE
6	JOHN O'DRISCOLL † (Capt)
7	PETER BOYLAN
8	ANTHONY O'LEARY
	JOHN CASALASPRO ‡
	TIM WEBSTER ‡

Saturday, 25th November, 1978—k.o. 11.30 a.m.

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

FULL BACK
RIGHT WING
RIGHT CENTRE
LEFT CENTRE
LEFT WING
STAND OFF
SCRUM HALF
PROP
HOOKER
PROP
SECOND ROW
SECOND ROW
WING
WING
LOCK
REPLACEMENTS

Gloucester

P. BUTLER †	15
R. CLEWES ‡	14
E. ROONEY	13
R. MOGG ‡	12
L. DICK †	11
I. WILKINS †	10
P. KINGSTON †	9
G. SARGENT ‡	1
F. REED	2
A. BROOKS	3
S. BOYLE ‡	4
A. TURTON ‡	5
J. WATKINS † (Capt)	6
P. WOOD	7
J. ORWIN ‡	8
P. HOWELL	
J. SIMONETT	

Saturday morning matches have to be played by senior clubs when there is an international on at Twickenham and when the distance the visitors travel makes the alternative of Friday night or Sunday afternoon impracticable. Friday night, especially, would be very impracticable at Sunbury since we don't have lights, except in the bar. Anyway, welcome Gloucester on this far too early Saturday morning, for your fifth fixture with London Irish. Although the record runs 3-1 and one cancelled in our favour may we be the first to acknowledge that our matches have tended to coincide with your County calls and we have thus met a very much under-strength Gloucester XV in some of these encounters. The scores have been 9-27 to Gloucester, away, in 1973; the next year's match was cancelled, and then London Irish have won the other three 21-7, 16-7 and 9-6.

London Irish form since we last played at Sunbury has been in and out. We thrashed a very weak Malone XV here before going on the road to Saracens where we lost 11-12. We scored the tries, they kicked the penalties, and we couldn't, as with Wasps, kick our own. The third London Merit Table match lost in succession, by the odd point. The next week we travelled to Streatham where we ran in another 40-plus points which brought our try tally to 40 for and only two against. Last week at Waterloo history repeated itself. They won 10-11 in the closing seconds as they did in the Cup a couple of years ago. Bluntly, they didn't deserve their victory, but then neither did London Irish after the bodge of the first Waterloo try when they took a kick at goal which we mishandled around our own goal to allow them to nip in and touch down. It would be true to say that we had eight of our regular first choice men missing, but sympathy points have no place on the scoreboard. The lads who did play pushed the heavier home side's pack off the ball, but Waterloo adapted quicker to the wet conditions and their rucking was superior. We had our opportunities, nevertheless. John Kirby over-hacked ahead—over the dead ball line—when he was clear of the field towards the home goal, and when London Irish were on the boil during a vital period of the second half the Referee adjudicated that what looked to be a quite deliberate act of obstruction on Waterloo's part was unintentional. The present state of things is that we have played 12, won seven, drawn one and lost four. We have now scored 41 tries and let in four. The total margin of points separating our defeats from victory is a mere six. Waterloo and Saracens have been by a point; Rosslyn Park and the Wasps by two. In all but the Waterloo game, in which they ran in two Irish mistakes, we have crossed the line to no reply by the others.

Today's London Irish team sees a more or less return to full strength.

The less is that club captain Duncan Leopold has been selected by Leinster to play Ulster in the inter-pro where he will be playing against Guy Beringer. It will be Duncan's second game for Leinster as he went with them over to Perpignon two weeks ago. Alastair McKibbin is still out with a damaged hand after Ireland/New Zealand. Pat Parfrey returns and plays at full back. Les White and Ken Kennedy come in the front row—and well done Les in the mighty Munster win over the All Blacks—Mick Molloy and Mike Smythe return to the second row slot; O'Leary and O'Driscoll come back to No. 8 and flank. Vince Pritchard's kicking was all right at Waterloo so he retains his place and is out on the right wing; Roger McKibbin and John O'Sullivan are the centres with John Kirby completing the threes. The combination of Murphy and Condon worked very well last week and they get another chance to play together this morning at half back.

Does anyone know John Moore or where he can be contacted? Tickets for Ireland/New Zealand were returned to me, after the match, which was a waste all round. The last address given was 22 Alleyn Road SE21. If someone knows John would they please ask him to get in touch?

The remaining five matches until the end of the year are all around London. Next week we have the first of four scheduled encounters with Plymouth Albion, at Sunbury, followed by the Met. Police (away), a merit table match against the Welsh at home; our traditional Stephen's Day fixture against Old Milhillians, and then Esher at home, who have been given a 1st XV fixture. In fact, London Irish play six home games on the trot (we hope they move faster than that) in 1979 and are not away until the Ireland/England weekend in Dublin when we take on Old Belvedere under lights on the Friday evening, and Clontarf on Sunday afternoon.

B. O'H.

TEAM RESULTS Up to and including Saturday, 21st October, 1978

TEAM	P	W	L	D	For	Agt	%	Last Sat's Results	
1st XV	8	5	2	1	147	76	68	Wasps 13-15	L
WILD GEESE (Gerry Holland)	9	6	3		181	80	66	Saracens 4-8	L
"A" (Mick Byrnes)	6	3	2	1	91	54	58	Saracens 10-16	L
WANDERERS (Gerry Ryan)	7	3	2	2	95	64	57	Saracens 0-18	L
"A" 2 (Tom Hynes)	7	6	1		175	65	85	Raynes Park II 32-6	W
Ex "A" (John Murphy)	6	4	2		83	70	66	Saracens 7-22	L
"B" (Des Egan)	5	3	2		100	89	60	Saracens 0-61	L
"B" 2 (Mike Tewksbury)	7	5	2		161	53	71	British Airways 28-0	W
"C" (Chris Cusack)	6	3	3		124	80	50	British Airways 16-4	W
Under 21 (David Cunningham)	6	4	2		148	74	66	Oxford University 4-14	L
NOMADS (B. O'Connell)	5	4	1		138	43	80	L. New Zealand 7-20	L

"Big Sam"

It was with profound sorrow that rugby followers everywhere heard of the death last week-end in a Birmingham hospital of Sam Doble, the former Moseley and England full-back, at the tragically young age of 33. Although he invariably became the target for light banter from the Kingsholm crowd Sam was held in great respect by them as a very accomplished rugby full-back.

Sam first came into prominence when at St. Paul's College, Cheltenham, where he often played as a No. 8 forward and appeared in the pack against Gloucester United. But he soon took over the full-back berth and it is mainly as a prodigious place-kicker that he will be best remembered.

It is believed that his last game for Moseley was at Kingsholm on Wednesday, October 1, 1975, when he came into the side at the last minute in place of Richard Akenhead, who switched to fly-half when Martin Cooper dropped out of the side to play Gloucester.

Our supporters join with thousands of others who have watched Sam over the years in extending deepest sympathy to his family and to the Moseley club he served so faithfully.

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Diary Dates

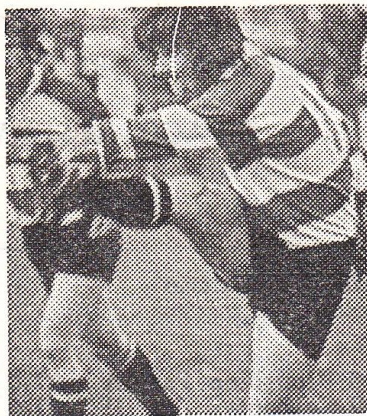
Next Saturday, September 24, Gloucester make the trip down the M.5 to meet county rivals, Bristol, and all supporters will hope for such another superb performance as that at the Memorial Ground last April, when the Cherry and Whites romped to a remarkable victory—the highest-ever between the two clubs. A coach is being run for the game, leaving Kingsholm at 12.30 p.m. and as bookings have already been heavy, anyone wishing to take advantage of the cheap trip should contact Mervyn Elway or Terry Close in the Social Club as soon as possible.

Gloucestershire meet Monmouthshire at the Athletic Ground, Cheltenham, next Monday evening, September 26, kick-off 7.30 p.m., then the following evening Newbridge will be the visitors to Kingsholm, with a 7 p.m. kick-off.

ARTHUR RUSSELL.

Club Personalities

No. 2 Peter Butler



Countless opponents over recent years have, like Hamlet, wished that "this too, too solid flesh would melt" as they have watched the prodigious goal-kicking feats of PETER EDWARD BUTLER, the club's vice-captain, dash all hopes they may have cherished of victory over Gloucester.

Married in August of last year—on the day that West Indies played Gloucestershire, he recalls—Peter, a production service manager at a local chemical factory, created a record in Great Britain by scoring 574 points in a season. And in that season, 1973-74, he was rested from the Gloucester side that trounced Old Merchant Taylors on Boxing Day by 80 points!

Peter has made 21 championship appearances for Gloucestershire, missing all but two of last season's matches because of a prolonged thigh injury, and has played twice for England—against France in Paris and, again as he fondly recalls, against Australia on the famous Sydney Cricket Ground!

Educated at Crypt School, the nursery for so many great players, he began with Old Cryptians before studying at Birmingham University, where he soon became the rugby captain and news of his remarkable place-kicking ability came trickling through. Since then he has bestrode the rugby world like a Colossus.

In the summer, when he is not committed to a rugby tour, Peter plays cricket for Old Cryptians, as do several of his Gloucester colleagues, past and present.