



COVENTRY
FOOTBALL
CLUB
RUGBY UNION

PROGRAMME

15p



JOHN PLAYER CUP - SECOND ROUND

The Competition is Sponsored nationally by John Player & Sons Ltd and today's match expenses and match ball are Supported by **RANK XEROX LTD.**

SATURDAY
23rd FEBRUARY 1980

TEAMS

Kick-off 3.00 pm.

Coventry

No.	Name	
15	R. Grant	<i>Full Back</i>
14	P. Knee (Capt.)	<i>Right Wing</i>
13	P. Coulthard	<i>Right Centre</i>
12	D. Bailey	<i>Left Centre</i>
11	M. Woodhead	<i>Left Wing</i>
10	H. Davies	<i>Stand Off</i>
9	S. Thomas	<i>Scrum Half</i>
		<i>Forwards</i>
1	F. Melvin	
2	S. Brain	
3	S. Wilkes	
4	B. Nannes	
5	C. McCarthy	
6	S. Oliver	
8	G. Robbins	
7	J. Shippides	

Replacements:

P. Rossborough
R. Fardoe

Touch - Judge: T. GIBBS (Warwickshire Society)

Gloucester

Name	No.
P. Butler	15
R. Clewes (Capt.)	14
R. Mogg	13
D. Pointon	12
P. Tunstall	11
B. Russell	10
S. Baker	9
G. Sargent	1
S. Mills	2
P. Blakeway	3
S. Boyle	4
J. Fidler	5
J. Watkins	6
A. Turton	8
P. Wood	7

Replacements:

P. Kingston
F. Reed

REFEREE:
Mr. P. J. Kingham
(Surrey & London Society)

OUR VISITORS

On the occasion of this second round "John Player Cup" tie, we welcome Gloucester on their second visit here this season, the third time we have clashed overall, the game at Kingsholm in September ending all square, whereas in December, Gloucester just shaded us by 9 pts to 3 in another very close encounter.

Although defeated at home last Friday evening by probably the top Welsh club of the moment Swansea, Gloucester still have an excellent record to date, 22 wins 2 draws and 9 defeats. In the last round of this competition they came through on the away team rule against Richmond, both sides kicking 2 penalty goals. Our supporters will indeed not need reminding that in our only other clash in this competition, way back in season 1971/72, Gloucester came here in the days before sponsorship and also went through as the away side in a drawn encounter.

Looking at the West Countrymen's record this season, their list of successes is pretty impressive, with victories over such as Leicester, Newport, both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Bedford (away) and Harlequins also away on a county match day. Indeed some three weeks ago, they also defeated Bristol with something like only half their normal side available. The prolific boot of Peter Butler has again been very evident, 273 pts to date, Peter we understand is now only some 400 pts short of the late Sam Doble's world points scoring record. Last Saturday, our visitors had three players on duty at Twickenham, with Phil Blakeway playing his part as England's tight head prop in the memorable triumph

over Wales. In addition, Gloucester had the distinction of having two other front row forwards, Steve Mills and Gordon Sargent on the replacements, quite something for one club to achieve. Overall on the representative front, it's been a pretty busy period for our visitors, with nine Gloucester men, Butler, Clewes, Mogg, Kingston, Sargent, Mills, Blakeway, Fidler and Wood all being in the defeated County final side against Lancashire. Interestingly though at least one, Peter Kingston and the ex Moseley scrum half has been unable to command a regular club place recently.

Turning briefly to our clashes at Coundon Road, we have met here during the '70's" on 10 occasions, Coventry winning 6 games, Gloucester 3, plus the Cup "draw" we mentioned earlier. From our point of view, it surely must be time we did something about the fact that 2 of those Gloucester victories have come in the last 3 visits! One thing is certain, this afternoon's game in the traditions of the "John Player Cup" is likely to be very exciting indeed, perhaps we in Coventry might be permitted to say it would be nice to end up the season "all square" with Gloucester over the three games.

THE HOME FRONT:

Our victory last Friday evening over Northampton not only saw us score in terms of points our biggest post war win over "the Saints," but this also enabled the side to record their 4th successive victory, our best run to date this season. Congratulations to all the side in running in 6 excellent tries, Roddy Grant seemed particularly pleased with his individual effort as well he might, but in a fine team performance all 16 players who played their part deserve our praises, in producing just the right type of "Cup" moral boosting form at the right time. Spare a thought though for the unfortunate Neville Bakewell who broke a small bone in his leg during the game, the best wishes of all are extended to Neville for a speedy recovery. The 40 points scored in this game also took our points for ahead again of those against, the first time since before Christmas we have been able to make that statement. All of which would seem to lead us in to updating on the statistical front, where Steve Thomas leads the way with 143, Paul Knee has 64, Huw Davies 60, Roddy Grant 37, and Peter Rossborough 16, with many others led by Steve Hall hard on his heels. Turning to touchdowns, skipper Paul Knee still leads the way by a wide margin with 16, Steve Thomas is second with 5, David Bailey, Huw Davies and Graham Robbins have all scored 3.

On the appearance front, 30 1st XV games have been played and of these Paul Knee has taken part in 25, whilst Barry Ninnes and Paul Coulthard have both been present 24 times, both of them once as a replacement. Next comes Fred Melvin on 23 and Andy Farrington 22.

THE CLUBHOUSE TODAY:

The Social Committee have decided that for today, due to limitations on space, the tearoom after the game will be reserved for players and officials only. Likewise, the Cocktail Bar will only be available to Coventry club members on presentation of their membership card. We trust everyone will appreciate this is being done for the best possible reasons in the interests of all concerned.

"500 CLUB":

When these notes were compiled, it was not known whether the February draw was being made this afternoon or next week. Would all "500 Club" members please listen for an announcement regarding this over the tannoy.

OLD PLAYERS ASSOCIATION:

A further reminder to all old players of the Club regarding the pre match luncheon on the occasion of the Wasps visit next Saturday, 1st March, commencing at 12.30 pm in the Clubhouse. A cordial welcome is extended to all past Coventry players.

The Association are also holding their Annual Dinner in the Clubhouse on Friday 21st March, commencing at 7.30 pm for 8 pm, when the guest speaker will be redoubtable Peter Robbins, with entertainment also from Van Art. Obtain your tickets price £3.50 each from Geoff Dipple or Committee men.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES:

As we mentioned in last weeks notes, the Committee have for today only suspended the tote in favour of a Prize Draw. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we are pleased to announce the first prize as being a FULL SIZE RUGBY BALL AUTOGRAPHED by the ENGLAND SQUAD and COVENTRY PLAYERS. Other prizes are bottles of scotch and sherry. What better value can you ask for than tickets price 10p each, this is open to all, you may make your purchases from Committee people as you enter the ground, with winners being announced at half time. Please support us, remember all of the proceeds go eventually to the Coventry Club and for the betterment of Rugby Football locally in general.

With so many people being tied up before the game with the draw, please note the shop in the Clubhouse will only open afterwards, new stocks have recently arrived, do please come along and have a look without any obligation.

A further reminder of the Annual Supporter's Club Dinner Dance being held in the Clubhouse on Friday 7th March, tickets price £4.50 each, obtainable from the Shop, Office or Committee people. Guest of honour on the evening incidentally will be David Duckham, make a date if you have not already done so, tickets incidentally have it appears now begun to go well, so please come along and share an enjoyable evening.

DATES TO NOTE NEXT WEEK:

Wednesday 27th February - Kick off 7.15 pm. 1st XV v Metropolitan Police
Saturday 1st March - Kick off 3pm 1st XV v Wasps

Your programme editor is John Butler, Press & Publicity Officer.