
COVENTRY FOOTBALL CLUB (R.U.)



PROGRAMME

20p

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Coventry

Gloucester

No.	Name	JOHN PLAYER CUP SEMI-FINAL	Name	No.
15	P. Rossborough	<i>Full Back</i>	P. Butler	15
14	S. Maisey	<i>Right Wing</i>	R. Mogg	14
13	D. Foulks (Capt.)	<i>Right Centre</i>	P. Taylor	13
12	T. Buttimore	<i>Left Centre</i>	S. Parsloe	12
11	N. Hudman	<i>Left Wing</i>	P. Pritchard	11
10	H. Davies	<i>Stand Off</i>	L. Jones	10
9	S. Thomas	<i>Scrum Half</i>	S. Baker	9
1	L. Johnson	<i>Forwards</i>	M. Preedy	1
2	S. Brain		S. Mills (Capt.)	2
3	S. Wilkes		P. Blakeway	3
4	A. Gulliver		S. Boyle	4
5	R. Fardoe		A. Turton	5
6	P. Thomas		J. Gadd	6
8	G. Robbins		M. Teague	8
7	N. Malik		M. Longstaff	7

SATURDAY
3rd APRIL 1982

REFEREE: Mr. C. J. High Manchester Society													
<p><i>Replacements:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>R. Knee</td> <td>I. Stokes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P. Lander</td> <td>A. Farrington</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. Hobley</td> <td>R. Sadler</td> </tr> </table>	R. Knee	I. Stokes	P. Lander	A. Farrington	M. Hobley	R. Sadler	<p><i>Replacements:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>K. White</td> <td>P. Kingston</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G. Thomas</td> <td>J. Brain</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G. Sargent</td> <td>P. Wood</td> </tr> </table>	K. White	P. Kingston	G. Thomas	J. Brain	G. Sargent	P. Wood
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P. Lander	A. Farrington												
M. Hobley	R. Sadler												
K. White	P. Kingston												
G. Thomas	J. Brain												
G. Sargent	P. Wood												

OUR VISITORS:

For this afternoon's eagerly awaited "John Player Cup" semi-final, we extend a particularly warm welcome to the players and officials and supporters of the Gloucester club. Our last home tie was of course fully two years ago, need we remind you against the "Cherry & Whites", so the scene would seem to be set today for another tremendously exciting encounter, watched by a pretty well capacity crowd including a whole posse of pressmen and in addition the BBC 2 "Rugby Special" cameras, not forgetting Nigel Starmer-Smith.

Few Coventry people will need reminding their side have two old "Cup scores" to settle against the men from Kingsholm. Way back in 1971/72, Gloucester went through to the final in the first year of the R.F.U. Club Competition, the result of course, a 6 pts all draw. Then two years ago and to the fourth round match referred to earlier, where into injury time we led by 9 pts to 7, only for Gloucester to snatch a dramatic injury time drop goal, which seemed to bounce off everything possible before dropping over the crossbar.

We have of course met to date only once this season, the December meeting falling foul of the weather. In September at Kingsholm we produced a fine performance before losing 15 pts to 21, but it has to be remembered we had both replacements on in forward positions inside 20 minutes and in addition were reduced to fourteen men for a time when "Mal" Malik was injured.

Let it be said though, whilst Leicester might argue, Gloucester to date must be regarded as the English club side of the season, their record to date reading as it does P.38 W.32 D.3 L.3 (not including the home game with Abertillery on Wednesday night). Included in the list of victories have been Leicester (A), so really the "Tigers" cannot complain about our earlier comment and also Pontypool who at the time were also in the middle of a storming start to the season. Gloucester are indeed unbeaten since December 28th when a weakened side lost heavily at Newport, their other defeats being a mid-week reverse at Cambridge Univ. and a setback against arch rivals Bristol at the Memorial ground, the day when John Fidler was sent off.

Of the side that beat Sale in the semi-final, prop forward Phil Blakeway has made another successful International comeback this season, Steve Mills in most peoples eyes is now clearly No.2 to Peter Wheeler and Steve Boyle has been capped at "B" level. In addition Malcolm Preedy and Mike Teague were included in the England U.23 training weekend together with props Dix and Ashmead who cannot make the club 1st XV regularly, all of which emphasises our visitors strength overall. Finally this week Blakeway, Mills and Gadd were all named in England's Summer tour party, congratulations to them.

THE COVENTRY FRONT:

Fortune certainly hasn't favoured us in the past fortnight or so, of that there is no doubt. Following victories over Bedford and Harlequins, the 17th in succession, have come away defeats with a weakened side at Moseley and a greatly depleted XV last week at Maesteg.

Certainly "the Quins" made us go all the way in the last home match, but then came our first reverse since November when the injury hit side finally lost in the last minute at Moseley. Last Saturday the level of the defeat at Maesteg was most disappointing, although with so many regulars missing, including the whole back row it clearly was always going to be difficult on a ground where few sides come away with much success.

It really is quite amazing how fate takes a hand when all is going well, firstly came the injury, thankfully not as serious as was first feared, to Marcus Rose at Bedford, Huw Bevan also received a serious injury in the same match. Subsequently Steve Brain, "Mal" Malik, Graham Robbins and Paul Thomas have all been sidelined. Graham of course played in the "Cup" quarter final although his ear infection has clearly troubled him greatly, whilst Steve Wilkes was also in the wars at Bedford. At the time of going to print, it was earnestly hoped to put it mildly the majority of our "walking wounded" would be fit for today.

On a happier note by all accounts Huw Davies displayed good form for the Barbarians in the Mobbs Memorial match last week, congratulations also to Tim Buttimore and Tony Gulliver who both fully deservedly took part in the England U.23 training session last weekend at Bisham Abbey. How good it has been as well to see our former skipper Paul Knee making his comeback after so many setbacks, we all wish Paul the very best of fortune as he fights his way back.

Very briefly on the home statistical front, firstly congratulations to Steve Thomas who completed 200 pts for the second season running last Saturday, Steve currently has 201, followed by Marcus Rose (96), Peter Rossborough (88), "Mal" Malik (52) and Simon Maisey (48). Still joint top try scorers are "Mal" Malik and Peter Rossborough both with 13, Simon Maisey has closed the gap and now has 12, followed by Graham Robbins, Steve Thomas and Lee Johnson all with 8, (Lee with 6 in the last 10 games) and Tim Buttimore (7) and Neil Hudman (6).

"THANKS TO JOHN PLAYER":

It should not be forgotten that were it not for the continuing sponsorship of Messrs. John Player we should probably not be here this afternoon for today's semi-final. Out grateful thanks are extended to them again for their continued interest and financial assistance.

"500 CLUB":

The March draw was made immediately following last weeks Extra First XV and details of the lucky winners were;

£100	No. 272	Edwards	£25	No. 389	H. Wheatley	£10	No. 140	D. Evans
£50	No. 461	Burge	£10	No. 276	Hird	£20	No. 530	English
£25	No. 169	"Quintet"	£10	No. 482	E. Walton	£10	No. 153	Miss D. Pell

THE ALF WYMAN MEMORIAL SEVENS:

Once again may we remind you it is only 2 weeks tomorrow before one of our most attractive events of the year takes place, SUNDAY 18th APRIL. Remember the first games commence at 12.30pm, with the final timed for 6.30pm. The 16 clubs who have promised to attend in Alf's memory and who will play in 4 pools are Coventry, Pontypridd, Waterloo, Nottingham, Leicester, Bristol, Maesteg, Nuneaton, London Welsh, Bath, Moseley, Rugby, Public School Wanderers, Northampton, Bedford and Sale. In addition there will be a 4 team U.21 tournament. Given luck with the weather, it all promises to be a great day, much hard work has gone in, so please make a note if you haven't already done so.

COMING UP:

With a heavy match diary coming up, may we again remind you of forthcoming games on this ground;

TOMORROW (Sunday) Coventry & Mid Warwickshire Union Sevens

Monday next, 5th April. Schools U.16 final

Wednesday next, 7th April. Re-arranged 1st XV game v NUNEATON (7.15pm).

Easter Saturday, 10th April. 1st XV v GOSFORTH (3pm).

Easter Monday, 12th April. 1st XV v HEADINGLEY (3pm)

Sunday 18th April. Alf Wyman Memorial Sevens (12.30pm)

Saturday 25th April. Extra 1st XV v Bristol United (3pm)

Monday 26th April. Warwickshire Colts Cup Final.

Wednesday 28th April. Minor Cup Final.

Saturday 1st May. Extra First XV v Bedford Wands. (3pm).

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