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SOUTH WEST MERIT TABLE

BATH v. GLOUCESTER

SATURDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1984

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PROGRAMME
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Nº 872

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BATH v. GLOUCESTER

Welcome Gloucester! Today could hardly be more crucial. Not merely for Bath and Gloucester, but in view of last weekend's setback at Murrayfield, for English rugby in general.

It is an irony that the two teams performing on the Rec. today are not only among the keenest rivals in the game but share nonetheless one common loyalty, namely . . . the prestige of English rugby.

It happens too that Bath have a John Player Cup campaign in motion, and how 'our Lads' impressed everyone with the tactical maturity shown in our thrilling win over Headingley. Interestingly, Rosslyn Park (whom Bath defeated last weekend) recently won their away clash at Blackheath by 24 - 9. There is however a key role for our supporters in our own John Player contest at Blackheath on February 25th which could sway the game in Bath's favour. For remember the enthusiastic support we took to London Welsh and the tremendous result that followed of a 40 - 9 win? Let us all help to make this next round a repeat performance of that marvellous victory at Old Deer Park, and therefore travel to Blackheath. For our followers made a tremendous impression at London Welsh, showing the great contribution that loyal supporters are able to make.

But let us again express our pleasure in hosting our great rivals Gloucester to Bath. That Gloucester are not themselves involved in the John Player Cup is the unfortunate consequence of a points system within the South West Merit Table that puzzles all rugby followers from Bath to Land's End. However, nothing could ever dampen the atmosphere of this particular West Country derby. So Gloucester . . . welcome.

And finally let us express the one bright spot of last weekend's clash at Murrayfield (naturally, Rob Cunningham and fellow men from Scotland had other matters to celebrate), namely the first cap for John Hall. Yes, he played as a replacement to partner Paul Simpson in the back row. But this does not diminish the delight of all Bath in John's call-up for his country. H.B.

As well as the sponsorship of a coaching session held at the Club earlier in the season for the benefit of local Combination Clubs, **NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC IS ALSO SPONSORING TODAY'S Merit Table match.** We extend our thanks for their interest and support.

The Club also thanks **Mr. J. B. Love** for his donation of a bottle of Scotch Whisky for today's lucky programme prize.

As can be seen from the facing page, the 1st XV fixture with Cheltenham on March 28 has been cancelled, as have both 1st XV and United XV matches on March 31, the day of the County Championship Final at Twickenham. Don't forget to order your tickets today for this match and also for the Club's special supporters' train direct from Bath to Twickenham. Details and application forms can be obtained from the Match Secretary.

For our 4th round John Player Special Cup match with Blackheath as mentioned above, your support there would be very welcome. Please 'phone John Rees (Bath 315834) for information on coaches. Details on ticket availability will hopefully be available by the time you read these notes and will be announced over the Public Address system.

Finally, would you please support today's collection made with the assistance of Bath West District Scouts on behalf of Arthritis Care.

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GLOUCESTER

Colours: Cherry and White

Full Back 15 **P. WEBB**
 Right Wing 14 **D. MORGAN**
 Right Centre 13 **R. MOGG**
 Left Centre 12 **P. TAYLOR**
 Left Wing 11 **N. PRICE**
 Outside Half 10 **M. HAMLIN**
 Scrum Half 9 **S. BAKER**
 Forwards 1 **G. SARGENT * (Captain)**
 2 **S. MILLS***
 3 **P. BLAKEWAY***
 4 **J. ORWIN**
 5 **J. FIDLER***
 6 **D. SPENCER**
 7 **J. GADD**
 8 **M. TEAGUE**
 Replacements: 16 **R. WILMOTT**
 17 **K. WHITE**

Referee: E. A. Church, Cornwall Society (Truro)

BATH

Colours: Blue, White & Black

Full Back 16 **C. R. MARTIN**
 Right Wing 15 **D. M. TRICK***
 Right Centre 14 **J. A. PALMER**
 Left Centre 12 **A. REES**
 Left Wing 11 **B. TREVASKIS**
 Outside Half 10 **J. P. HORTON***
 Scrum Half 9 **R. HILL**
 Forwards 1 **G. CHILCOTT**
 2 **R. CUNNINGHAM**
 3 **R. LEE**
 4 **N. GAYMOND**
 5 **R. F. HAKIN***
 6 **R. A. SPURRELL (Captain)**
 7 **J. HALL***
 8 **P. SIMPSON***
 Replacements: 17 **A. WATKINS**
 18 **P. TURNER**

*International Kick-off 3 p.m.

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