

**JOHN SMITH'S
MERIT TABLES**

GLOUCESTER

V.

WASPS

SATURDAY

18th JANUARY, 1986

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by

**PROVIDENCE
CAPITOL**

Life Assurance Company Limited



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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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CANON H. M. HUGHES B.A.**

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**MATCH SPONSOR
 FOR TODAY**



GLOUCESTER
 (Cherry & White)

-
- Full Back
 15. **T. Smith**
-
- Three Quarters
 14. **D. Morgan**
 13. **P. Taylor**
 12. **R. McLean**
 11. **J. Breeze**
-
- Half Backs
 10. **M. Hamlin**
 9. **M. Hannaford**
-
- Forwards
 1. **P. Jones**
 2. **K. White**
 3. **R. Pascall**
 † 4. **J. Orwin (Capt.)**
 5. **J. Brain**
 6. **J. Gadd**
 7. **M. Longstaff**
 8. **J. Bennett**

REPLACEMENTS
 S. Artus
 L. Cummins

WASPS

-
- Full Back
 † 15. **N. Stringer**
-
- Three Quarters
 14. **P. Miniman**
 † 13. **R. Cardus (Capt.)**
 † 12. **R. Lazowski**
 11. **R. Pellow**
-
- Half Backs
 10. **G. Rees**
 9. **S. Bates**
-
- Forwards
 1. **M. Brooks**
 2. **J. Samuel**
 3. **J. Probyn**
 4. **J. Bonner**
 5. **C. Pinnegar**
 6. **M. Rigby**
 7. **D. Pegler**
 8. **M. Rose**

REPLACEMENTS
 A. Rayner
 K. Bonner

Referee: F. HOWARD (Liverpool Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Bags more buzz at Kingsholm!

Good Afternoon! Nice to see you have your priorities right, and prefer Gloucester v. Wasps to that minor Anglo-Cambrian altercation at 'Twickers'. I suppose that in these video-laden days, it's not too great a sacrifice for many people anyway. And have you noticed that we have a whole hour of 'Rugby Special' tomorrow, to cover two Internationals? Gosh! There's generosity!

But I digress. Internationals apart, there's no doubt that, if the John Smiths Merit Table is to be taken at all seriously, our game today is the most important one being staged — I trust I don't have to point out that this is the 'top of the table' meeting.

It's a shame that the calls of England v. Wales has drawn some of the strength from today's visitors. Don't be misled by that, however, because Wasps have always been able to point to strength in depth, and, I'm told, never more so than now.

Perhaps today will be third time lucky. I can't follow my usual practice and remind you of results between Gloucester and the visitors over the past couple of seasons, simply because there haven't been any. The games both last year, and in 1984, fell victim to some unreasonably vindictive weather. That means that it is at least four years since we've had the pleasure of seeing Wasps at Kingsholm — and no English season, these days, can be said to be complete without some Wasps in the jam-pot.

I have a suspicion that this means that today's visitors haven't been entertained in our comparatively new Complex yet. If I'm right about that, then I'm sure that it is a deficiency which will be remedied more than adequately, today. Which is right and proper where such welcome visitors as Wasps are concerned.

Nice to see you after all this time, lads. There's certainly bags of 'buzz' when Wasps hit Kingsholm.

Well done Tom!

Assuming that today's game does go ahead as planned, a great deal of the credit must go to Tom Oakes.

It won't have escaped your notice that the weather we have been having over the past few weeks seems more conducive to building Arks than to maintaining rugby pitches — and there has been snow, plus some sneaky little frosts, as well. It therefore follows that both players and supporters owe a big vote of thanks to Tom, for the fact that we have been playing at all.

Such thanks are duly proffered.

Thanks to Providence Capitol

Have you ever, when seeing the Gloucester pack on the rampage, turned to your neighbour and said "I wouldn't be up against that lot for a pension"? If so, I wouldn't express these sentiments too forcefully today, because today's remarkably generous sponsors could just take you up on it.

Providence Capitol are, as such things go, a comparatively new arrival on the local financial scene, having been established in Cheltenham for just a few years. In that time, however, they have achieved a remarkable record of success, both from the point of view of their own turnover, and from the standpoint of the results they have obtained for their clients.

The experience of the five equity unit trusts which the company manages proves the point. They were launched as recently as April last year, and the performance figures, announced a couple of weeks ago, show a gratifying growth, which must be highly reassuring to those fortunate souls whose pensions are based on them.

The worst performer has been the North American Fund, and that has grown by 9%. This is followed by the Japan Fund which is nudging 17%, the UK Equity Fund (21%) and the Worldwide Fund (22%).

But the jewel in the crown is undoubtedly the European Fund which has achieved a phenomenal 48%, and according to today's host, Jim Ryan, now stands at some £19 million. Not bad in ten months!

So, if you are thinking of salting a few quid away for your years of seniority, it could be worth talking to my old mate Jim Ryan. You'll find he's a bloke after your own heart.

Thanks for your support, Providence Capitol. We hope you and your guests have a great afternoon.

'Fivers' at the 'Tigers'

The Leicester game yielded two Lucky Programme Fivers — generously donated, as you'll see from the front cover, by Tyre Sales Limited.

Programme No. 1173 was handed in by Mr. H. Jones of Shearwater Gardens, Innsworth. Programme No. 9, on the other hand, sent £5 out to Abenhall, Mitcheldean, where Mr. J. Meek lives at the Old Rectory.

Fancy coming to a game as enjoyable as the Leicester match and then going home £5 richer! Some blokes have all the luck.

Boob!

I don't know whether I should be apologising to the City Cricket Club, the City Bowls Club, or Pat Morgan, but it appears I made a mistake when I was describing Pat's new hot food facilities, which are doing great business in the vestibule of the Clubhouse, hard by the Grandstand. I thought she said she performed a similar service for the Cricket Club, when she was in fact referring to the Bowls Club.

Sorry about that. My only excuse is that it can be difficult to concentrate when you're sitting in a bar, taking notes from an attractive and vivacious member of the opposite sex.

John Player tickets

At the time of writing, there are still Wing Stand tickets available for the John Player game against Bristol, next Saturday, as ever was.

Centre stand tickets were all sold a while ago, but Terry Tandy tells me that there should still be a few of the other sort available today. As always, they'll be on sale from the Caravan behind the main stand, after the game.

There aren't any Ground tickets, which, as the rules of the Competition make this an 'all pay' match, means that you would do well to get there a bit early to avoid a crush at the turnstiles.

May I also remind you that 'all pay' includes the car park — don't blame us; it's them rules again.

Fancy a trip to Florida?

There's a major draw going on at the moment, raising funds for the May Tour of Florida. The first prize is a trip for two, accompanying the team on their epic-making expedition.

That simply has to be worth the investment of 50p a ticket. If you agree, you'll find tickets available at the Club Shop in the old Secretary's Office under the clock at the Worcester Street end.

And, while you're there, you could well treat yourself to a sweater, tie or something. Worth a visit, anyway.

What happens next?

Bristol in the Cup, next week and Bristol again on the following Friday evening in the Merit Table. Just to complete the set, United are away to the same opposition on Saturday, February 1st.

It's the following Saturday which is causing the problems. We're down to play Aberavon, away, on that day, but if we win the Cup match that will go by the board and we just don't know what will happen until we see the draw for the next round. If we were to be drawn at home, for example, it would do a nasty to the United's home game against Bath.

Watch this space!

Tailpiece

Talking of the Internationals, it's to be hoped that the standard of England's play is better than that which we saw in the Divisional game here — and, I hear, than was shown in other matches as well.

It was all summed up for me when, on leaving the ground that day, I was detained by a large policeman who said, in his best Sergeant Dixon voice, "Excuse me Sir, am I right in thinking you paid to come in today?"

I admitted that, in fact, I had. "Ah!" he said. "Would you like me to have a word with the Fraud Squad about it?"

PETER ARNOLD.