

## MOSELEY NEWS

## OUR VISITORS TODAY— GLOUCESTER

We are very pleased to welcome Gloucester to The Reddings this afternoon. Games between the two clubs, both founded in 1873, are always very keen affairs with the adrenal in flowing both on the pitch and in the crowd and it is a match awaited with eager anticipation every season.

Last year Moseley won here 16-7, Chris Barbor scoring the allimportant try, but at Kingsholm Gloucester won 17-12, in a game which illustrated their new expansive 15-man style, both their wingers, Morgan and Price, scoring tries and which was also notable for a magnificent 50-yard individual try by Charlie Smith.

This season in the John Smith's Merit Table 'A' match at Gloucester, on New Year's Day, Moseley were beaten 8-3 through two tries by winger Breeze, both made by full-back Tim Smith's dramatic incursions into the three-quarter line. It can be said in all fairness that Moseley were unlucky to lose this game—a case of being 'against' the Breeze!

Incidentally the game today does not count in the John Smith's Merit Table but no incentive is needed to make the Gloucester fixture interesting. It breeds its own atmosphere.

Since 1964 the clubs have played 39 games, Moseley winning 14, Gloucester 21, with four drawn, points for 550 and against 538.

This season Gloucester started disappointingly and were strangely inconsistent losing 44-3 to Swansea and 43-6 to Harlequins away, and losing at home to Coventry, Newbridge, Ebbw Vale and Newport, but on the other hand they beat Llanelli, the much improved Glamorgan Wanderers and only lost to Pontypool 17-12.

There seemed to a conflict as to whether to continue the more expansive style of play or return to the tight 10-man Rugby more cautious approach. However, Coach, Bob Redwood, finally got it right an there followed a spell of 19 wins from 20 matches before the 'freeze' only Coventry defeating them at Coundon Road. Since the 'freeze' Gloucester have not really 'warmed-up' and they somewhat surprisingly lost to London Scottish in the *John Player Special Cup* quarter-final 12-8 in an incident packed match. They are, however, well set to win the *John Smith's Merit Table 'A'*. A win at Sale on 19th April would probably ensure this but cancelled or postponed matches and the percentage system of deciding the positions make forecasting positively hazardous. Gloucester have in fact not played their nearest rivals Nottingham, that being one of the cancelled (or postponed?) matches due to the 'freeze.

However, we can look forward to a good game this afternoon. The teams had been selected at the time of writing because of the Easter matches, but Moseley's gritty display at Newport and their resounding win over Llanelli must be a real confidence booster for today's game.

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## OUR VISITORS ON WEDNESDAY— ORRELL

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A particularly warm welcome to our friends from Orrell on only their fourth visit to The Reddings.

Orrell have in fact won here comprehensively on their last two visits, 23-9 in 1981 and 21-6 in 1983. The first match was won by Moseley 27-4.

Moseley have had more success at Edge Hall Road winning 6-3 in 1980, when the team and supporters were held up on the motorway and arrived only just in time for the filming of Rugby Special, drawing 6-6 in 1982, Mike Perry and Ian Metcalfe each kicking a penalty and winning 18-7 in a re-arranged fixture in March 1985, only the second home game Orrell had lost that season. Colwell, Boyle and Shillingford (2) scored Moseley's tries.

The Orrell Club was formed in 1927, a young club that has broken into the top bracket and gone from strength-to-strength. Their most illustrious player in their short history is, of course, John Carleton, who has won 25 England caps on the wing. We are hoping to see him here tonight, probably playing in the centre where he is likely to be a very difficult player to stop.

Last season Orrell won 38 out of 47 matches losing only seven with an impressive 1,295 points for and 416 against, but such is the high standard that the team has set in recent years, the fact that they did not win the Lancashire Cup and the Northern Merit Table made the season a disappointing one in their eyes.

This season Orrell have won 25 games, drawn one and lost eight with 805 points for and 347 againt. They are lying second in the *John Smith's Merit Table 'B'* having defeated Blackheath, Richmond and Bedford and lost to Rosslyn Park 18-15 when the 'Park' were unbeaten. They play Liverpool on Saturday, Waterloo the following week and then what could be the vital game to decide the winners of the Table, Saracens away on the 26th.

Their 'big match' was in the third round of the John Player Special Cup where they were victims of the vagaries of the rules, drawing with Bath but losing on the 'away team' rule. They learnt, as Moseley did, how good the Bath pack was but they did wonderful things with limited possession and were desperately unlucky.

Writing these notes so far in advance of the match makes it impossible to forecast who will be playing tonight. But in Orrell's ranks are the *Thorn E.M.I. Divisional Championship* players in the North Division team, full-back Simon Langford, who played with Mike Perry in the England Colts team and who is Orrell's leading scorer this season, flanker Peter Buckton—if the word 'hoax' is mentioned 'nuff'said'—hooker N. Hitchen and prop and captain D. Southern. With Carleton in the backs is England centre and Cambridge University captain, Fran Clough who will make a bigger impact as he gains experience at top level, winger Gary Ainscough, their leading scorer last year with 322 points and Peter Williams, who made a big impact in South Africa playing full-back for Transvaal in the Currie Cup.'

Others in the pack include lock Dave Cusani who toured South Africa with England in 1984 and just missed a 'cap' but then lost a season through injury—he was the one who replaced Bill Beaumont in 'Bill's last game in Lancashire's County Championship victory over North Midlands at The Reddings in 1982. His brother, Charles, had switched from lock to number eight before injury. Other regulars, Fletcher, Kiminins and Cleary played here in 1983.

A formidable team—which should lead to a keen and exciting game, especially as Moseley will wish to keep up their fine record against Merit Table 'B' teams, unbeaten except in the return match at Coventry.

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## TEAMS

SATURDAY, 5th APRIL, 1986

MOSELEY
Colours: Red and Black

	GLOUCESTER Colours: Cherry and White	
Full-Back	T. SMITH	15
Right-Wing Right-Centre	R. MOGG (Capt) P. TAYLOR	14 13 12
Left-Centre Left-Wing	R. McLEAN J. BREEZE	11
Fly-Half Scrum-Half	M. HAMLIN M. HANNIFORD	10 9
Forward	P. JONES K. WHITE	1 2
,,	R. PASCALL	3
,,	N. SCRIVENS J. ETHRIDGE	4 5
,,	J. GADD M. TEAGUE	6 8
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	M. LONGSTAFF	7
*Denotes International	Replacements To be announced	16

KICK-OFF: 3-00pm

I. METCALFE (Capt) 15 J. GOODWIN 14 13 A. KITCHING 12 C. ARNTZEN 11 A. PARSONS J. GATEHOUSE 10 S. ROBSON S. McGEE G. N. J. COX G. SMITH P. DANIELL A. RECARDO R. BARR S. MASTERS

● Today's Match Ball Donors: Spirax/Sarco (0242 521361) Central TV Plc (021-643 9898) Lombard North Central Plc (021-744 8577) Britannic Assurance Plc (021-449 4444)

P. SHILLINGFORD

Replacements...
M. LEWIS

S. COOPER

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JAN WEBSTER SPORTS 37-38 Station Street, Walsall

Moseley are pleased to

be associated with

Today's Referee: ANDREW MASON (London Referees Society)

• Today's Match Sponsors:

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Chairman of Selectors: J. C. WHITE Captain of the Club: I. METCALFE

Tel: 0922 29042

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