

# LONDON IRISH R.F.C.



The Avenue  
Sunbury on Thames

40p

## London Irish

Saturday, 22nd November, 1986 — k.o. 2.30 p.m.

## Gloucester

15	JIM STAPLES ‡	FULL BACK		FULL BACK	N. MARMENT	15
14	TONY O'MALLEY ‡	RIGHT WING	THREE-QUARTERS	RIGHT WING	J. BREEZE	14
13	PAUL O'DONNELL * (Capt)	RIGHT CENTRE		RIGHT CENTRE	R. MOGG	13
12	MALCOLM DAVIDSON ‡	LEFT CENTRE		LEFT CENTRE	P. TAYLOR	12
11	PETER DAVIDSON ‡	LEFT WING		LEFT WING	M. SMITH	11
10	RALPH KUHN ‡	STAND OFF	HALF-BACKS	STAND OFF	M. HAMLIN	10
9	ANDY ERRITT	SCRUM HALF		SCRUM HALF	R. WILLIAMS	9
1	TOM HENNESSY *	PROP	FORWARDS	PROP	M. PREEDEY † (Capt)	1
2	ANDY COOKE	HOOKER		HOOKER	K. DUNN	2
3	FERGUS O'SULLIVAN	PROP		PROP	R. PASCALL	3
4	EAMON BRENNAN	SECOND ROW	† International	SECOND ROW	C. GUEST	4
5	STEVE MATTHEWS ‡	SECOND ROW	° Blue	SECOND ROW	J. ETHERIDGE	5
6	JEAVON O'NEILL	WING	‡ County	WING	J. GADD	6
7	PADDY BYRNE ‡	WING	* Inter-Provincial	WING	I. SMITH	7
8	DAVE FITZGERALD	LOCK	Referee:	WING	M. TEAGUE †	8
	CONOR MALLUCCI	REPLACEMENTS	R. G. James, Esq.	LOCK	L. GARDNER	
	BRIAN MCGUIRE		(Leicester Society)	REPLACEMENTS	G. MANN	

■ Today's Match ball is kindly sponsored by the MURPHY GROUP OF COMPANIES. Tel: 01-267 4366. ■

Today we extend a warm welcome to the real roast beef of Olde England, the formidable Gloucester XV, John Smith Merit chart-toppers last season. When I spoke to Terry Tandy on the phone last week he said they'd had a "patchy" season so far but had won four out of the last five games! (I concluded that "patchy" must mean something different in Gloucester!!) Indeed they come to us in almost full strength after a handsome 35-6 victory over Broughton Park which compares a little uneasily with our 12-32 "Waterloo" on the same day.

However believers in the sorcery of statistics may take some comfort in the Irish record against Gloucester over the 12 matches played; we have won seven and lost five, even though last year was one of the heavier of the five; a 3-44 defeat. We *could* use the excuse of having seven inter pro's missing last year, but would gain little comfort since at the time of going to press we are likely to be missing three this year, Mike Gibson, John O'Driscoll and Hugo McNeill. So with Barry Murphy and Hugh Condon still out (though the former is well on his way back) we must have a battle on! But having said this we're good at battles and we love the minor miracles underdogs sometimes perform! The trouble with miracles is they're hard to predict, they keep you waiting and they're always a surprise! But don't forget how the team roused by a gaggle of Wild Geese eager for a chance played against a strong 'Quins side on 1st November; there have seldom been as much spirit in the side this season. They really contested and they came so close! The Geese continue in good form with a strong win against Waterloo and the junior teams are going well.

But Friends, Romans and Countrymen, pass me my pint! — for the 15 plus merry men inside the pantomime horse affectionally known as the "B's" have scored another showbiz first! After frolicking heroically, but somewhat aimlessly through the last decade or so they have finally hit Hollywood where it hurts! They made the movie! Entitled "Bees on Toast" and produced by Tom "Bon" Tuohy, it had its world premiere last month above

the Antelope pub which was packed to the door by Egan, Joy, Healy and Barbieri (and some smaller folk!). All club coaches, philosophers and lovers of the odd song or two should buy it immediately while stocks last. I doubt if there'll be another like it; 'eve long the B's will have dropped their last ball and their voices will surely have broken! (psst! there's talk of an LP later in the season).

But cheer up, win or lose today we have something to celebrate, Roger Anderson makes a welcome first visit to the club today after his very serious accident last summer while on holiday in Greece. He and his father are guests of the club today and are very welcome and I know you'll tell them so. Roger has made a truly remarkable recovery from his injuries which is a great tribute to his courage, determination and fitness.

Our chairman, Willie Lemon has just hopped back from "down under" with a pouch-full of news. His promotion of the club has obviously been successful and London Irish have invitations to bring two or three teams to Australia on tour in August 1988. We would be following in the footsteps of Llanelli, Leicester and London Scottish who go there this summer. All this is still subject to committee approval and will cost money. We have to raise this so please support Hugh Arthur's tour draw which starts in January!

Talking of money, remember the extension? We still have a lot of money to raise and still urgently need donations from all members who have not yet given. It doesn't matter how small your donation is it will be greatly appreciated.

We have two home game before Christmas, against Northampton and London Welsh. They are both National Merit games and both crucial so make a date! Next week the 1st XV play London Scottish away (early kick-off) and the Geese take them on at Sunbury. See you all there.

PS. Its nice to see the Mini Rugby and London Irish get a good mention in LWTs "Wake Up London" (a programme the Bs started in the 60s).