

LONDON IRISH R.F.C.



**The Avenue
Sunbury on Thames
Middlesex
Tel: 0932-783034**

50p

London Irish

Saturday, 18th March 1989 — k.o. 3.00 p.m.

Gloucester

15	JIM STAPLES *	FULL BACK	THREE-QUARTERS	FULL BACK	TIM SMITH	15
14	SIMON GEOGHEGAN ‡	RIGHT WING		RIGHT WING	JIM BREEZE	14
13	SEAN BROWN	RIGHT CENTRE		RIGHT CENTRE	DAMIAN CUMMINS	13
12	JOHN HEWITT †	LEFT CENTRE		LEFT CENTRE	RICHARD MOGG	12
11	CONOR MALLUCCI	LEFT WING		LEFT WING	CHRIS DEE	11
10	PAUL BELL	STAND OFF	HALF-BACKS	STAND OFF	JOHN ROBERTS	10
9	CHRIS MAHON ‡	SCRUM HALF		SCRUM HALF	MARCUS HANNAFORD	9
1	NEILL DONOVAN	PROP	FORWARDS	PROP	MALCOLM PREEDY	1
2	MICKEY LEONARD	HOKKER		HOKKER	JOHN HAWKER	2
3	MICHAEL O'ROURKE	PROP	† International	PROP	RICHARD PASCALL	3
4	IAN STEVENS ‡	SECOND ROW	° Blue	SECOND ROW	NIGEL SCRIVENS	4
5	ANDY MILLAR ‡	SECOND ROW	‡ County	SECOND ROW	JOHN BRAIN	5
6	PAUL COLLINS †	WING	* Inter-Provincial	WING	JOHN GADD	6
7	DAVID FITZGERALD (Capt)	WING	Referee:	WING	IAN SMITH	7
8	MICHAEL GIBSON †	LOCK	S. W. Piercy, Esq.	LOCK	BARRY CLARKE	8
	DES POWER	REPLACEMENTS	(Yorkshire Society)	REPLACEMENTS	PAUL ASHMEAD	
	MARK LEMON				NICK MARMENT	

This afternoon's visitors are Gloucester who meet Bath in the semi-final of the Pilkington Cup next Saturday. We welcome them and their supporters once again to Sunbury for this friendly fixture confident of a lively contest and with the prospect of Gloucester playing an expansive game – not least to give all 15 of their players a thorough airing for the following week. It is something of an occasion for us to beat them, at least that is what I thought until receiving a Match Analysis from Ray McLennan. Between November 1973 and November 1987 we had 16 fixtures, of which two were cancelled and out of the remaining 14, we have won seven and lost seven. That is a respectable record against a club of Gloucester's calibre and there is no reason why we should feel too daunted by our formidable First Division opponents.

The Match is sponsored by **PHILIPS BUSINESS SYSTEMS** who are led by their managing director, JOHN BUNCE and his national sales manager, STUART JOHNSON. Philips is the major European manufacturer of dictation systems and ancillary office equipment: they have been introduced to London Irish by our former chairman, W. D. Lemon, whose company Aveca is one of Philips' largest distributors in the United Kingdom. We are gratified that they have followed up their visit last season when they sponsored the match on that occasion and we hope that they and their guests will be well victualled and vastly entertained.

Our victory over London Welsh last Saturday has condemned them almost certainly to a season in Division III of the John Courage Championship, at the same time as maintaining our own challenge for second place and the prospect of elevation to Division I. At present Coventry are favourites to go up with Saracens who are assured of promotion already. We have yet to play Richmond (away on Saturday 8th April) and Blackheath at Sunbury on 22nd April, both of which games we must win. London Welsh refused to do the decent thing and lie down last Saturday – they threatened us all the way, scoring

beneath the posts in the final minute of the match. Although our clock gave them another five minutes, the referee did not (perhaps he was in a hurry to leave the ground!).

Congratulations are due to Paul Burke, Finbar's 16 year-old son. Having worked his way up from our first-ever Under 8 team in mini rugby in 1980 to his school team (St. Paul's, next door) he has now advanced to county level with Surrey and further to the South-east division and now, after the final trial last weekend, has been capped at fly-half for England Schools Under 16s. He is an outstanding prospect for London Irish and higher honours. Well done Paul!

Last weekend saw the start of the spring mini rugby festivals. At Effingham we won three of five titles – Under 9, 10 and 12, getting to the final and semi's in the 8s and 11s. In the Staines festival where we traditionally enter at B level the Under 7s and 9s won and two other of the five age groups entered reached the finals. Our policy of coaching coaches is obviously paying off!

Final call for spectators and helpers on Saturday/Sunday 25th and 26th March – 11.00am onwards when London Irish host yet again the Annual Under 21 Fifteen-a-side Tournament, with a total of some 16 clubs competing. There is a reception at the Clubhouse at Sunbury on Friday 24th March for teams with music by "Emerald Mist" commencing at 7.30pm. Members should feel welcome to attend and greet our visitors, which include a party from Lansdowne led by the legendary Moss Keane – 51 caps at lock for Ireland. Do turn up on the competition days, wet or fine – bring your friends and if you can put in a few hours help on one day or another, please speak to Ray McLennan, Bosco McAuliffe or Kieran McCarthy.

From 6.00pm this evening "Grainuaile" are playing in the Four Provinces bar as a sort of belated salute to St. Patrick's Day.

The Sunbury Echo

N.B. The club shop is open for an hour or two after the game.