



Cardiff rugby club

MAIN SPONSORS – THE BRENT WALKER GROUP PLC



at The Cardiff Arms Park this evening . . .

GLOUCESTER

Friday, 1st November, 1991

Kick-Off 7.15 p.m.

VOL. 1. NO. 5

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

50p

Cardiff

15. Mike RAYER
14. Steve FORD
13. Mike HALL
12. Ceri JONES
11. Ian JEFFREYS
10. David EVANS (Captain)
9. Andy BOOTH
1. Richard DOBLE/Mike GRIFFITHS
2. Ian WATKINS
3. Paul PRICKETT
4. Simon CROTHERS
5. Stuart ROY
6. Gareth ROBERTS
8. Howard STONE
7. Phil THOMAS

Replacements:

16. Huw HARRIES
17. Ian McKIM

Full Back
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Outside Half
Inside Half
Forwards



Gloucester

- Tim SMITH 15.
- Jeremy PERRINS 14.
- Don CASKIE 13.
- Ian MORGAN 12.
- Nick MARMENT 11.
- Neil MATTHEWS 10.
- Marcus HANNAFORD 9.
- Peter JONES 1.
- John HAWKER 2.
- Bob PHILLIPS 3.
- Nigel SCRIVENS 4.
- Dave SIMS 5.
- Paul ASHMEAD 6.
- Sam MASTERS 8.
- Ian SMITH (Capt.) 7.

Replacements:

To be named

Today's Referee: **F. R. Staddon**

Touch Judge: **R. Martyn**

Ball Sponsor: **F.W. MORGAN, Allensbank Road, — Mr Les Green**



Cardiff v. Gloucester

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER, 1991

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By this time tomorrow we will all know the answer to the big question of the moment — who gets their hands on The Webb Ellis Cup. The only certainty is the fact that it will be a different name from New Zealand as the initial victors of 1987 competition.

The semi finals were very much of the chalk and cheese syndrome. There couldn't have been a bigger contrast of rugby styles in the way England and Australia weaved their way to the final. England repeated their life sapping stranglehold grip at forward in the same way that had so frustrated the French in Paris the previous week. Murrayfield became an extension of Parc De Princes as Rob Andrew characteristically put the final nail in Scotland's coffin with the boot.

The English style has been very much put to question even from inside. To succeed on consecutive Saturdays in Paris and Edinburgh however is a great achievement and not many teams would have been capable of doing so. It begs the question though is winning the be all and end all of the past. All I can say is that I'm sure Wales would be more than happy if they now found themselves where England are at present under the very same set of circumstances.

Australia's performance in the other semi however was nothing short of magic. Taken what we have seen from the current All Blacks side over the past few years who would have thought that the Aussies could put them to the sword in the manner they did. It was a game that had everything that a thrill hungry crowd wanted to see. You name it and that wonderful game had it. Perhaps the only missing ingredient was a question of who will be the final winner. Even at 9-6 in England's favour at Murrayfield a last minute score by Scotland wasn't beyond the realms of possibility so it contributed enormously to the excitement. The Down Under clash however saw the writing very plainly on the wall for the All Blacks from the moment of that magical try from the mercurial David Campese. What a player that man is. Some great exponent of the English Language will have to dream up some new superlatives to fully describe that man's talent and contribution to the game.

Can the magic of Australia then stifle the control that England have enjoyed in their previous few games — we will soon know.

The play off certainly produced a very exciting game too for two sides who had shown little appetite for the game prior to kick off.

With Rugby World Cup II history by this time tomorrow it means we can now concentrate on the commencement of the Heineken League which gets off the mark next Saturday. Fortunately we should have all our squad players available by then so we should be able to field a full strength side.

With five of them returning for the Wasps game last Friday it made a marked difference to our attacking potential. The Wasps began with quite a bang however and after ten minutes or so I don't think there was anyone on the ground who thought that by the end of the game we would have chalked up eight tries and eight good ones they were too. Indeed when we ran the ball the pace and incisiveness we showed behind the scrum was highly encouraging. The Wasps for their part kept the play open which all contributed to one of the best games we have played this year. Had the quality of some of the tries we scored been seen in some of the World Cup games, they would have been

written up as classic.

So it's on with our last home league game before our visit to St. Helen's Swansea tomorrow week. And once again we welcome further English visitors in the form of Gloucester. In all we have played Gloucester on 161 occasions of which we have won 107 to their 36 with the remaining 18 games drawn. We have scored 1741 points in the process to their 819.

We first played Gloucester in 1882 and from there on in we played as a regular home and away every season until 1975. Since then, we have met on only 4 more occasions in 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1983. Of Gloucester's 36 wins only seven of them have come at The Arms Park and the last of those was in 1935. Quite a few of our wins have come on Kingsholm which is their home ground and has always been considered a bit of a boneyard for Welsh Clubs.

As like ourselves Gloucester have yet to start their league programme and they will be looking with great interest to Twickenham tomorrow to see how their sole contribution to the English team performs. Mike Teague is the player concerned and like the rest of the English forwards he has certainly chipped in his sixpenn'orth in their success to date.

When the Courage League set up was introduced in season 1987/88 Gloucester finished up in 5th place. The following two seasons 1988/89 and 1989/90 they were runners up to Bath and Wasps respectively. Last season they lost their grip a bit and finished in 6th place with 6 wins and 6 defeats from 12 starts.

Their success in the cup competition has been a bit spasmodic. They won the cup in the inaugural season 1971/72 and then again in season 1977/78. In 1981/82 they shared the trophy with Moseley.

Their next appearance came in the 1990 final against Bath and that was an experience they would want to forget.

Gloucester was formed in 1873 and is 16th in seniority within The R.F.U. Their contribution to English Rugby and the Old County Championship set up is as good as any and we are only too pleased to welcome them to the Arms Park this evening.

These notes were written before our side had been declared. Hopefully Mike Rayer will be taking his place at full back and in doing so will make his 201st appearance at 1st team level. Since season 1985/86 he has made the number 15 shirt his own and during that time he has consistently produced top class performances. His recent call up to the national team was thoroughly deserved and according to many was well overdue. Well done Mike.

The Rags are running along in top gear with 10 victories from 11 games. Their latest victims were Pontypool United away and Rumney at home. The side has now come under the guidance of a regular captain in the form of Tim Crothers. This is a very popular appointment indeed as there are many other Heineken League clubs who would be more than happy to have him amongst their ranks. His loyal service to Cardiff is nigh on epic. He came on the scene with the Youth XV in season 1977/78 after playing for Cardiff Schools. He had two seasons in the Youth and then entered the senior set up in 1979/80 when he played 30 games for the Rags and also made his first team debut when he played against The Harlequins on Easter Monday 1980.

In his long career Tim has made 180 appearances at 1st team level and 200 outings with the Rags. He captained the club in season 1989/90 and achieved the near impossible when his side on the day ran mighty New Zealand so close. Well done Tim on a fantastic record. We all hope you enjoy a season of success and achievement.

The winner of the lucky programme of the Wasps game was Mr Gareth Watkins.

P.N.