



The London Irish Rugby Football Club

Main Club
Sponsor

**R. O'ROURKE
& SON LIMITED**

MATCH PROGRAMME
Season 1992-93

The Avenue
Sunbury on Thames

£1.00



Today's Match

Saturday, 9th January 1993 at 3pm



London Irish

OWEN COBBE	Full Back 15
SIMON GEOGHEGAN †	Wing 14
RAY HENNESSY	Centre 13
DAVID CURTIS †	Centre 12
MICHAEL CORCORAN	Wing 11
PAUL BURKE	Fly-half 10
ROB SAUNDERS †	Scrum-half 9
NEIL DONOVAN	Prop 1
JOHN McFARLAND	Hooker 2
GARY HALPIN †	Prop 3
COLIN HALL	Second Row 4
MAT KEENAN †	Second Row 5
PAUL COLLINS †	Flanker 6
DAVID PEGLER (Capt)	Flanker 7
ARAN VERLING	No. 8
MICHAEL PATTON	Replacements
JON BYRNE	† International

Touch Judge:
J.D. Rees (RFU)

Referee:
D.W. Matthews (RFU)

Touch Judge:
R.W.G. Wynde (RFU)

Reserve Touch Judge: H.M. Nicholl (London & Ulster Societies)

Gloucester

MARTYN ROBERTS
DERRICK MORGAN
DAMIAN CUMMINS
DON CASKIE
SIMON MORRIS
NEIL MATTHEWS
MARCUS HANNAFORD
TONY WINDO
JOHN HAWKER
ANDY DEACON
DAVE SIMS
RICHARD WEST
PETER GLANVILLE
IAN SMITH † (Capt)
PAUL ASHMEAD
TIM SMITH
DAVE KEARSEY

Club sponsor

R. O'Rourke & Son Limited



Guinness Brewing GB

Today's match sponsors

First Team Talk

Today life gets serious again with the resumption of the Courage League campaign. Nonetheless we welcome our distinguished guests Gloucester, their committee and followers in the 'cherry and white'. Gloucester RFC founded in 1873 has been one of the bedrocks of English rugby famous more for formidable forwards of farming stock than gilt-edged twinklers in the backs. Their most capped player with 30 caps but now with Moseley is Mike Teague. Tom Vogue who appeared for England between 1920 and 1926 had one less at 29. Don Rutherford, the RFU's technical administrator and architect of England's remarkable upturn in playing fortunes is also one of their illustrious sons with 15 caps. Their record in the First Division since the league's introduction in the '87/'88 season is awesome - 5th, 2nd, 2nd, 6th and last season 4th. But last summer some 12 of their most experience 1st team squad members including Mike Teague took part in a sensational desertion to other clubs, a blow that would destroy most other clubs. But with a rich Scottish exile seam still being unearthed with the likes of Don Caskie, Pete Jones and captain Ian Smith, with a feeder system and development squad of enormous strength and potential, and with no other major sporting distractions around the city like soccer Gloucester will still be a mighty rugby threat to anyone not least ourselves today now that they lie relegation-threatened in an unaccustomed 9th position with four points from six games. Last year we visited them on a dour old Wednesday night with a depleted team. With ten minutes to go and after some sparkling backplay we were leading 15-3 in a silent and shell-shocked Kingsholm. But a fatal change of tactics played right into their hands when we opted to close the game down and keep it tight - just what Gloucester with their mauling strength wanted! They prized the ball and the game off us to win 22-15 in a fierce crescendo of noisy support. We hope we'll be a bit more canny today is what will undoubtedly be another Sunbury cliffhanger.

It would be extremely remiss of me not to mention our sponsors today, Guinness Brewing

GB. On December 1st we entered into a most generous general sponsorship with them. It's a relationship we look forward to developing. We have to say that we do sink a lot of their fine product and at a phenomenal rate - some fifty 88-pint barrels per big game. There is no doubt Guinness and London Irish do have a very strong affinity as almost every national press cutting confirms. We wish Robert McNevin, their marketing director, Roy Mantle their public relations and sponsorship manager and their many distinguished guests a very special day. Will everyone please make sure they are made extraordinarily welcome.

A collection will be made today in aid of the Mayor of Spelthorne, Tom Stubbs' Special Charity Appeal. It would be kind and tactically, if not strategically, sensible of us to contribute so when you are approached please be generous and dig deep. Be warned the Mayor himself is in attendance today and will be watching. We wish him not only an enjoyable but also a fruitful visit to our patch on his patch.

Another patch of great value to us is next door on the right - no less than St. Paul's Catholic School whose playing fields and parking areas we are most grateful to be able to use. Headmaster Edmund Kaye who educates a fair number of our members' offspring is a special and most welcome guest today.

Looking ahead . . . it's an awful long way to go to watch TV and the Scotland v. Ireland game. But in fact we do play Moseley as well at 11am, which means it'll be 'up wiv ve sparras loike!' Another game to sharpen tactics and drill the squad for the league run-in.

The following Saturday, the 23rd, it's the fourth round of the cup and, by way of consolation we have a hastily re-arranged top game away against fellow sufferers Bath at the Recreation Ground. It was a pulsating match there in September and we'll be looking to close the gap on them.

And on the 30th it's Harlequins - here - a 'friendly' but God help them if they think so after the last encounter!