

Club Sponsor



**WASPS**  
FOOTBALL  
CLUB  
Founded in 1867

# **WASPS**

**v**

# **GLOUCESTER**

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP



Saturday, 10th September, 1994. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

## WASPS

- 15 STEVE PILGRIM
- 14 SIMON HUNTER
- 13 GRAHAM CHILDS
- 12 DAMIAN HOPLEY
- 11 NICK GREENSTOCK
  
- 10 ROB ANDREW\*
- 9 STEVE BATES\*
  
- 1 GARRY HOLMES
- 2 KEVIN DUNN
- 3 IAN DUNSTON
- 4 MATT GREENWOOD
- 5 NORMAN HADLEY\*
- 6 LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO
- 7 CHRIS WILKINS
- 8 DEAN RYAN\* (Capt.)
  
- Replacements*
- 16 PAUL DELANEY
- 17 RICHARD KINSEY
- 18 ANDY GOMARSALL



*Referee:*  
Mr J. J. M PEARSON  
(R.F.U.)

*Touch Judges:*  
Mr P. J. WAKEFIELD (R.F.U.)  
Mr R. P. JENKINS (R.F.U.)

\* INTERNATIONAL

## GLOUCESTER

- 15 MARK MAPLETOFT
- 14 PAUL HOLFORD
- 13 SIMON MORRIS
- 12 BEN MASLEN
- 11 TIM SMITH
  
- 10 LEE OSBORNE
- 9 BRUCE FENLEY
  
- 1 PETE JONES
- 2 JOHN HAWKER
- 3 ANDY DEACON (Capt.)
- 4 DAVE SIMS
- 5 RICHARD WEST
- 6 PETE GLANVILLE
- 7 IAN SMITH
- 8 MARK NICHOLLS
  
- Replacements*
- 16 LAURIE BECK
- 17 DAVE KEARSEY
- 18 SIMON DEVEREUX

\* INTERNATIONAL

**W**E offer a warm welcome to our old friends from Gloucester for this opening game in the 1994-95 Courage Clubs Championship. We also welcome our match sponsors, Forum Hotel, London and the parties from United Airlines and John Whittenbury Financial Services, who are using our hospitality suites this afternoon.

In the opening game of the League season at Kingsholm last year we came away with a 9-9 draw and were happy to do so as we have only won there once in the past fifty years. It was a poor game with neither side managing to score a try. The return match here last January was much more entertaining and we did well to record a win by 26-18.

Midway through the season, Gloucester had looked to be in possible danger of relegation but they stormed back in the later stages with wins over Northampton, Orrell and Harlequins to finish in eighth place. This season they welcome back Mike Teague from Moseley and following a 44-0 win in a warm-up game against Lydney, they are sure to present us with very strong opposition this afternoon.



# COACH COMMENTS

*Rob Smith looks at Wasps' preparations for the season ahead, starting with today's game against Gloucester.*

**W**ASPS had one of the best preseasons for many years and I'm very pleased with the players' hard work and their level of confidence. The squad has re-organised its game structure and developed it from last year; it's something we will keep refining.

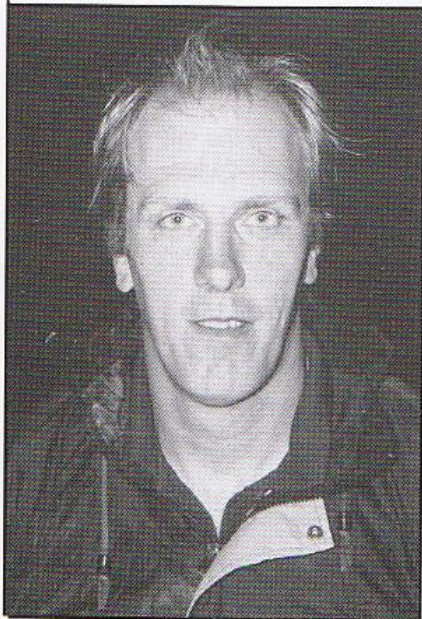
Levels of fitness are good but we have to keep improving them all the time. The way we aim to play this season will be more demanding on fitness and skill levels. We're looking at a more mobile game and it's tough playing at that kind of pace.

Norm Hadley is an immense physical presence in the middle of the lineout, giving us far greater stability, more opportunity to get control of the game and move it at our pace. Norm is also excellent at set piece work, again offering us a new degree of control. As a world class prop, Nick Popplewell has tremendous, high quality scrummaging ability and his mobile game will give us extra options up front.

I'm convinced this will have quite an effect on the way we play. The back row and the backs can concentrate on their own jobs, so the team can act as a complete unit. Wasps has a lot of quality players in the backs. Steve Pilgrim has returned and it will be interesting to see how he does

this season. There is also a lot of young, exciting talent in the squad, all competing for places.

Gloucester have had a good pre-season and tour themselves. They are probably as confident as Wasps and looking to improve dramatically as the new season gets under way. Our first game against Gloucester last year ended in a draw, even though Wasps were favourites to win, and both teams will be keen to do better this time. Gloucester are a very good side who will present us with a challenge in our first League match of the season. Today, both sides will be aware of the need to maintain the game plan under pressure.





## TODAY'S OPPOSITION

A familiar face returns to the Gloucester side this season, as former England and British Lions back-row Mike Teague comes back to the club after his time spent playing at Moseley. He is joined by a number of new recruits including Warwick Bullock from Coventry, Simon Cattermole, formerly with Exeter University, Mark Mapletoft from Rugby, Lee Osborne and Adey Powles, both ex Berry Hill.

Last season saw Gloucester finish eighth in Division 1 of the Courage Club Championship. This year, director of rugby Barrie Corless is predicting greater Courage League honours. He considers last season was a disappointing one for the First XV. A poor start meant Gloucester were always in or around the relegation zone, putting pressure on a young side. Hopes raised by three consecutive League wins at the end of 1993 were dashed after Christmas by a spate of injuries which put many first choice players out of action.

A recent tour of South Africa has helped the "Cherry and Whites", under captain Andy Deacon, to develop a more competitive and confident squad style. Coach Viv Wooley also instigated structured preseason training on a daily basis, to ensure the players are better prepared for the rigours of a demanding fixture list. These factors have improved fitness and skills, allowing the team to establish a style of play and work hard to improve it. A stronger squad, with more competition for places, is hoping to provide more consistent performances on the field this season.

Famed for their vociferous and enthusiastic supporters, Gloucester has always enjoyed great loyalty from players and fans alike. Wasps will face Gloucester again at Kingsholm early in the New Year, when the clubs meet for the second time in the current League contest on 7 January.