

LONDON WELSH R.F.C.



LONDON WELSH

VERSUS

CARDIFF

SATURDAY, 6th FEBRUARY, 1988

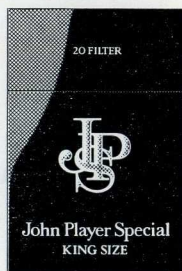
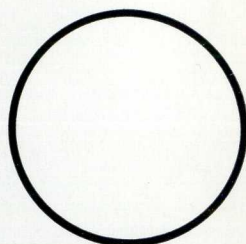
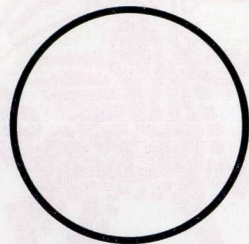
Kick-off 11.00 a.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 30p

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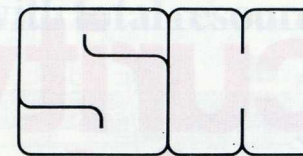
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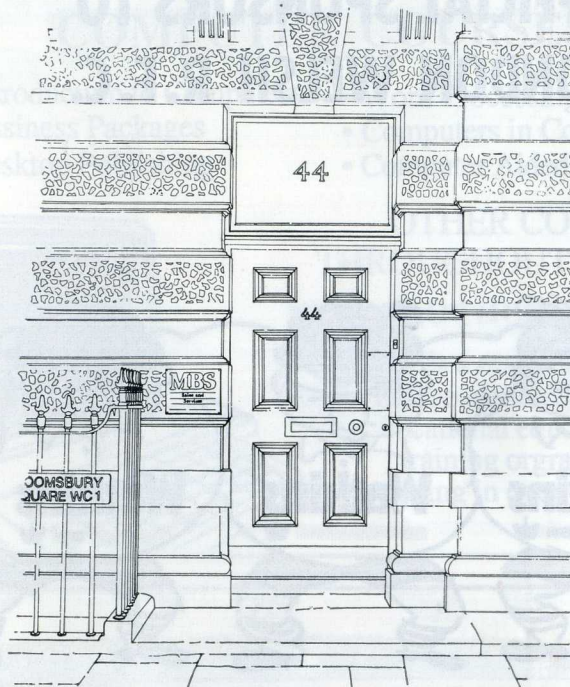
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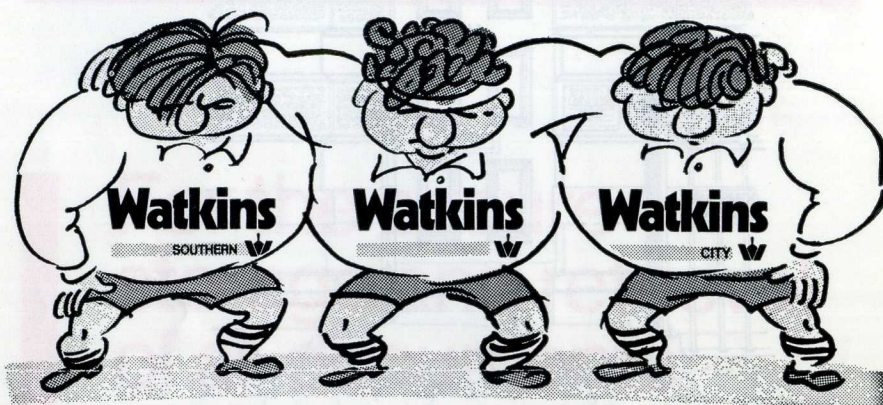
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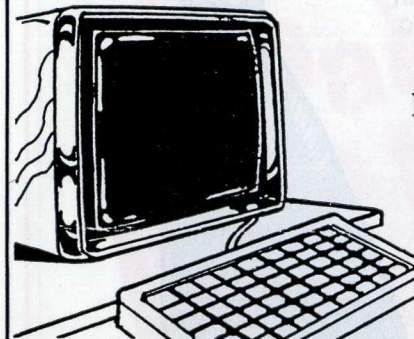
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4. I enclose the sum of £1.00 as my subscription for the season.

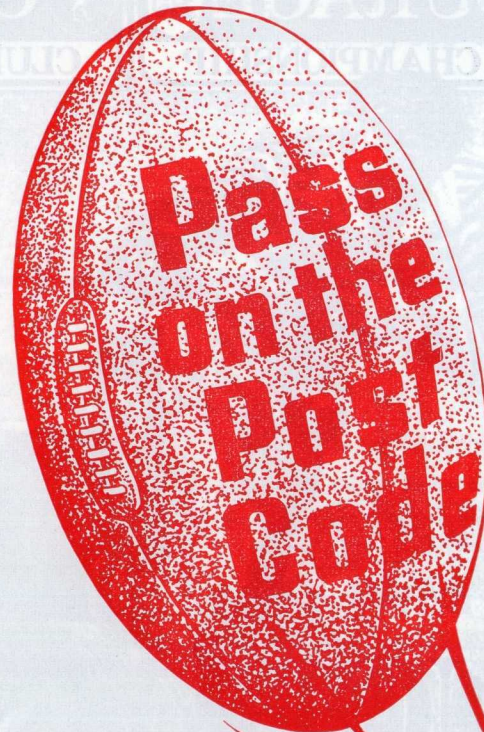
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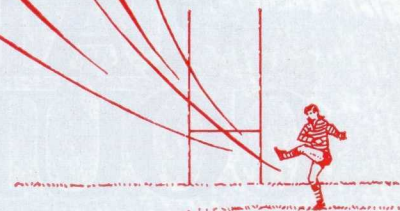
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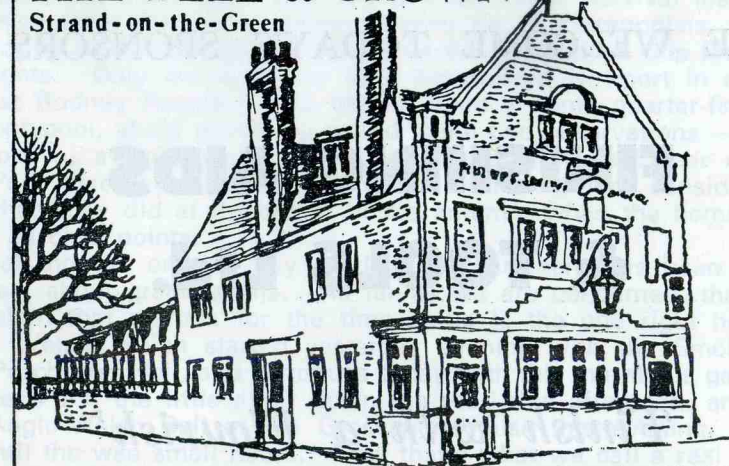
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LONDON WELSH v CARDIFF

(Colours — Scarlett)

(Colours — Blue & Black)

15	Mark Thomas or Nathan Humphries	Full Back	M. Rayer	15
14	Richard Wintle	Threequarters	G. Cordle	14
13	Jim Williams		A. Donavant	13
12	Nick Jenkins or Alan Reece		S. Crandon	12
11	John Walters		R. Cardust	11
10	Chris Evans	Fly Half	M. Dacey†	10
9†	*Mark Douglas	Scrum Half	R. Gilest	9
1	Bruce Bradley	Forwards	J. Whitefoot†	1
2	Byron Light		A Phillips†*	2
3	Julian Davies		S. Blackmore†	3
4	Roger Ford		M. Rowley	4
5	Stuart Lewis		H. Stone	5
6	Tim Waldron		R. Lakin	6
7	Jeremy Evans		T. Crothers	7
8	Jonathan Smith		J. Scott†	8

REPLACEMENTS

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 A.N. Other
17 Chris Smith

† International

* Captain

Referee: Mr. Roger Quittendon (London Society)

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CLUB NOTES

Some visitors to Old Deer Park — and by "some," we mean those who only visit us on high days and holidays — may have read that things haven't been going too well for the Welsh in the last week or two. They may be surprised to know, however, that the corpse is still extremely lively and that sackcloth and ashes are decidedly premature. In any event, there has been quite enough navel-contemplation in recent weeks, and on a day like this, when we are in the company of our very good friends from Cardiff, our thoughts are only beautiful. We will accept that winning is rather more fun than losing, but let's leave it at that and banish any further talk about the odd defeat here and there.

If we are to hope for anything from today's game, it can only be that we should continue from where we left off at the Arms Park in December. Now that really was quite a game, with Cardiff leading us a merry dance for much of the second half, until we responded with three tries in eight minutes, to come within a whisker of our first win in Cardiff since 1977. We dwell on this a little, for as all London Welshmen know, our record against Cardiff can hardly be described as a thing of beauty. Perhaps, instead, we can draw some inspiration from the fact that we have won two of our last three meetings in Richmond.

For Cardiff, this has been a mixed season — which is to say that it has been moderate by Cardiff's standards, and pretty good by anyone else's. Autumn, it is true, was bleak and soggy, but as we all know, our visitors have an uncanny knack or rising to the occasion whenever their reputation is threatened. Since their heavy defeat at Llanelli (6-41), they have won a string of impressive victories, notable among them being home triumphs over Newbridge (20-0), Swansea (17-6) and Bath (38-9) and sprightly wins at Ebbw Vale (32-10) and, in the cup, Aberavon — not the Wizard variety, but the local Quins. That Cardiff should even have had the chance of meeting the Quins, let alone trouncing them 36-0, was due to their innate survival instincts, which saw them through a tricky opening tie at Ystradgynlais, whom they beat by 12-9. But Cardiff now have the Schweppes Cup firmly in their sights. Only last Saturday they demolished Newport in a fiery match at Rodney Parade. This earned them a home quarter-final tie with Pontypool, about which we would make two observations — first, that those of a squeamish disposition should stay well clear of the Arms Park that day, and second, that Cardiff will fare considerably better than they did at Pontypool in the autumn, when the home side won by 31 clear points.

Our final thought on this day of days is that there has been much loose talk about grand slams. As far as we are concerned, the only grand slam that matters for the time being is the one right here at London Welsh, which started yesterday evening with the Smoker at the Porchester Hall, and continues today with this morning's game at Old Deer Park, the little affair down the road this afternoon, and the swell Anglo-Welsh Ball at the Grosvenor House this evening, which lasts until the wee small hours. Now that's what we call a real grand slam! Any survivors may apply for life membership of the Sunday Morning Red-Eye Squad.

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TOUCHLINES

★ Today, we are extremely grateful to Chris Howcroft, managing director of Finishing Aids and Tools Ltd, who are sponsoring this morning's game. It wasn't that long ago that Chris was performing heroic deeds for the club at lock forward, in an eight-year, 120-game career, which also included Wales "B" honours. Welcome back, Chris. We hope you and your party enjoy the game.

★ Our warm thanks are also due to Trinity College, Carmarthen, who have again donated the match ball for this biennial Twickenham curtain-raiser. The College has the distinction of being one of the earliest centres of rugby in Wales, its connection with the game dating back at least 119 years. Many former students have also had strong links with London Welsh — among them, Willie Watt, a former club president; Ronnie Boon, one of 11 internationals produced by the College; three club captains in Vernon Davies, Gwyn Lewis and Brian Richards; and life member, Delme Thomas.

★ May we remind everyone that the Supporters Club are running a coach to Cardiff on February 20th for the Wales-Scotland game. The return fare is £8, with departure from O.A.P. at 9 a.m. S.C. members will also, for just £1, have use of the facilities of the Regent Club, before and after the game. Booking details may be obtained in the tea-bar or from the club shop.

★ Next Saturday we face Bridgend in what traditionally one of the most attractive games of the season. It revives memories of the epic match at the Brewery Field in October, which the Welsh won in injury-time. Come along and enjoy the action! Kick-off is at 2.30 p.m.

LEICESTER MAGIC

What is the secret of Leicester's success? In one sense, at least, they invite comparison with the great London Welsh side of recent memory. Perhaps they lack some of the charisma and individual brilliance of the Welsh side of that era, but their remarkable co-ordination between highly-skilled backs and forwards, and their ability to launch attacks on many fronts, without a hint of needless aggression, stamp them as a team of great quality, capable of giving enjoyment to many people. For long periods last week the Welsh played with flair and great heart and their efforts were not reflected in the final scoreline. Nonetheless, Leicester scored seven tries — only one of them by a forward — and avenged their defeat at our hands in September.

There were several changes from the side beaten by Berry Hill, with debuts by Chris Evans and John Smith, and first appearances of the season by Roger Ford and Jon Walters. But Chris and John are not strangers to each other, nor to Old Deer Park. Both are natives of Pontyclun who attended Y Pant Comprehensive School, and both were in the Pontyclun team which won the Under-11 event in the mini-festival at Old Deer Park in 1976. Chris, who later studied at Jesus College, winning an Oxford Blue at stand-off in the 1984 varsity match, is now a field engineer. John, who studied art and design at West Glamorgan College of Higher Education, celebrated his debut at No. 8 by scoring our try against Leicester. We wish them both a long and happy stay at Old Deer Park.

FOR THE RECORD

January 30th: London Welsh 6 (Smith 1t, Humphreys 1c), Leicester 41
 Team Record: Played 25, Won 7, Drawn 1, Lost 17, Points 344-506
 Most Games: Llewellyn 22, Waldron 22, Wintle 22, Douglas 21, Evans 21
 Most Tries: Douglas 9, Wintle 8, Evans 5, Humphreys 3, Roblin 3, Turner 3
 Most Points: Turner 96, Humphreys 43, Douglas 36, Wintle 32, Roblin 21, Evans 20

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FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1987 - 88

						Points	
						For	Against
1987							
September	5	A	PLYMOUTH ALBION			26	12
	6	A	TORQUAY ATHLETIC			34	9
	12	A	SARACENS	CC		23	7
	19	A	LEICESTER			9	6
	23	H	METROPOLITAN POLICE			44	0
	26	A	ROSSLYN PARK	CC		15	16
October	30	A	BEDFORD	CC		6	6
	3	H	RICHMOND	CC		22	26
	10	A	BRIDGEND			16	15
	17	H	LLANELLI			6	20
	24	H	NEATH			9	33
	31	H	HARLEQUINS			4	26
November	7	A	COVENTRY			3	30
	14	A	MOSELEY			3	18
	21	H	BRISTOL			3	14
	28	H	NEWPORT			18	25
December	5	H	ABERAVON			10	27
	12	A	CARDIFF			21	27
	19	H	LONDON IRISH	CC		6	13
	26	A	LLANELLI			13	44
1988							
January	2	A	NORTHAMPTON	CC		16	14
	9	H	BATH			11	35
	16	H	LIVERPOOL-ST. HELEN'S	CC		10	27
	23	H	BERRY HILL	JP		10	13
	30	H	LEICESTER			6	41
February	6	H	CARDIFF				
	13	H	BRIDGEND	*			
	21	A	PONTYPRIDD (Sun)				
	27	A	WATERLOO	*			
March	5	H	MAESTEG				
	12	A	BLACKHEATH	CC			
	19	H	HEADINGLEY	CC			
	26	H	SWANSEA	*			
April	2	A	ABERAVON				
	4	A	NEWPORT (Mon.)				
	9	H	WASPS				
	13	H	LONDON SCOTTISH (W.)	CC			
	23	A	GOSFORTH	CC			

CC = Courage Clubs Championships

* = John Player Cup date

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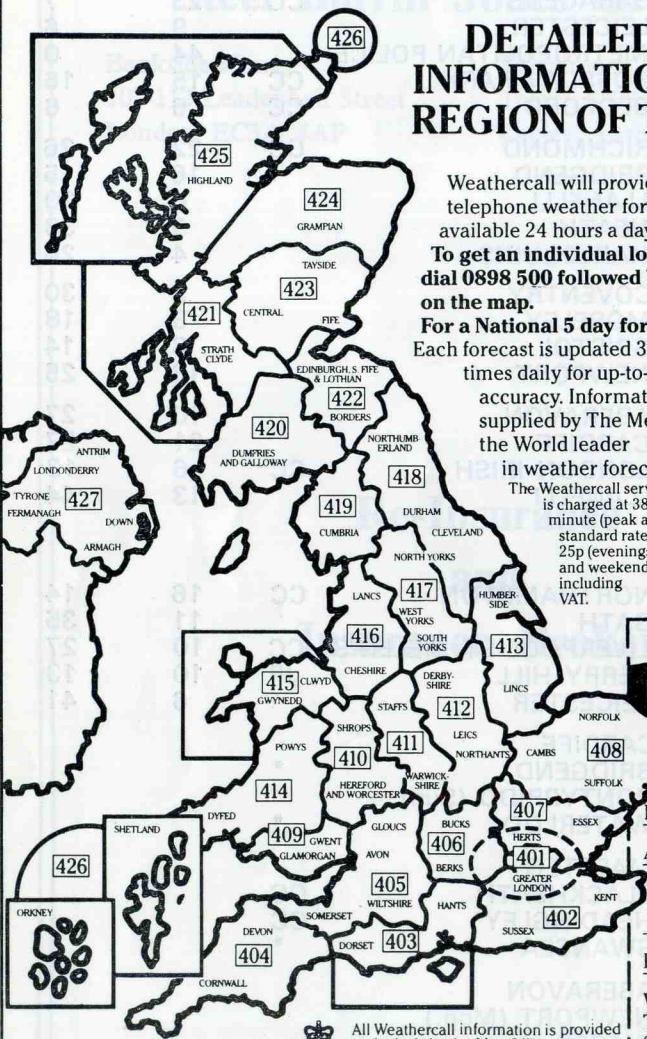
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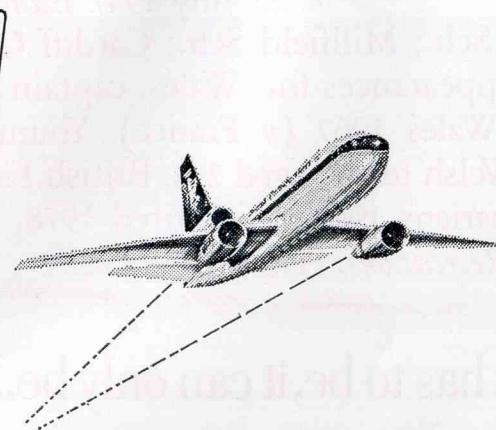
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b: 12 July 1947. *Educ:* Pontardawe Tech. Sch.; Millfield Sch.; Cardiff College of Educn. 53 appearances for Wales, captain 13 times. Debut for Wales 1967 (v France). Youngest ever captain of Welsh team (aged 20). British Lions 1968, 71, 74. Barbarians 1967-78. Retired 1978. Awarded MBE 1975. *Recreations:* Fishing and Golf.

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Sch...you know who.