



Saturday, 5th September, 1987

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30p

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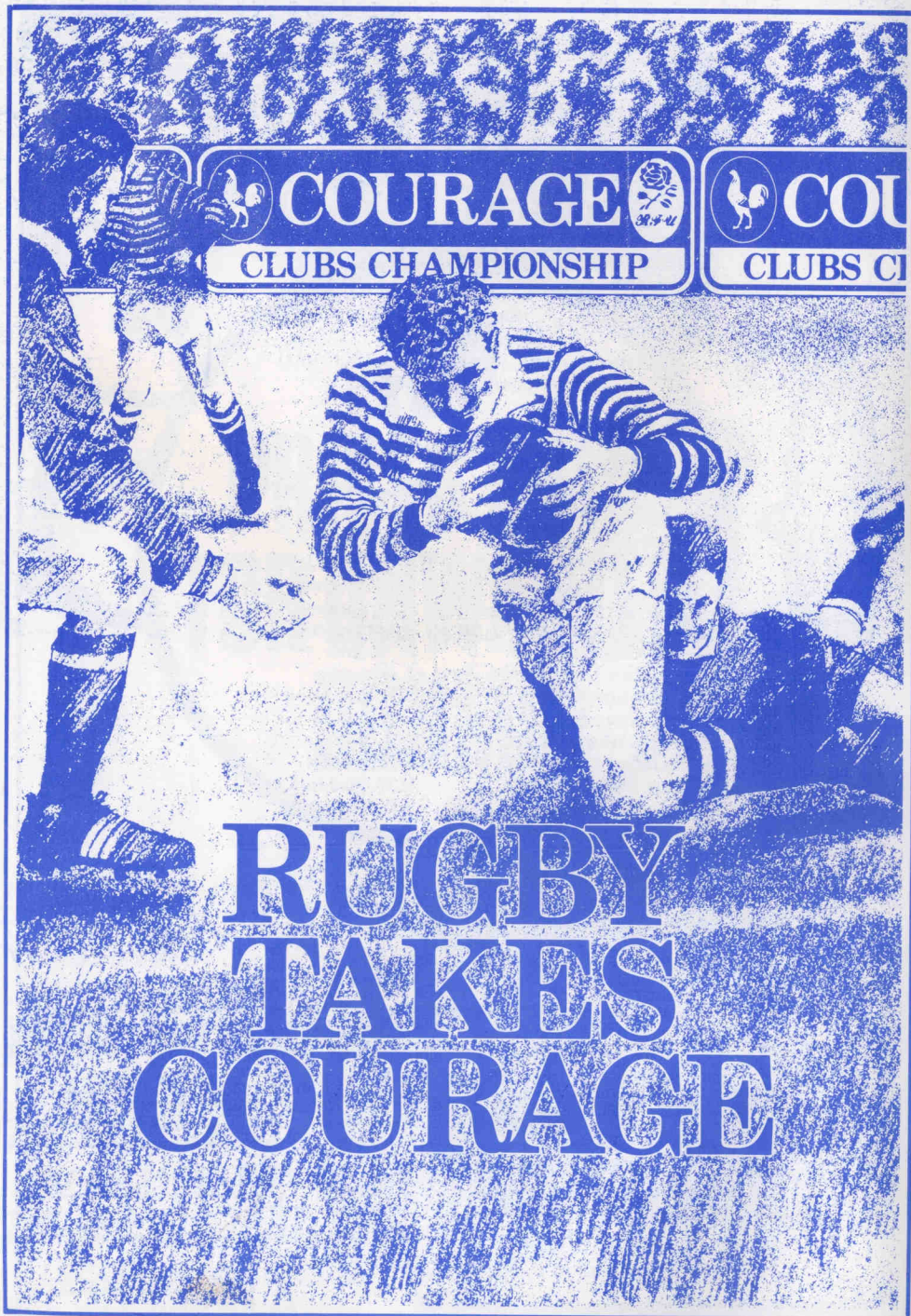
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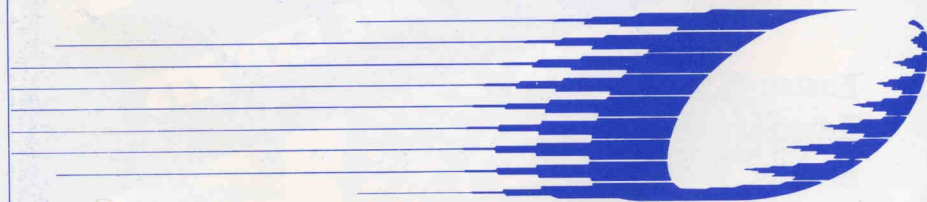


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Cabots Notes

Dear Fellow Rugby Nutters,

For those of you of a statistical bent, and so far as Bristol in its centenary year is concerned most of you are, you will be delighted to know that contrary to popular belief Old Cabot is alive and well. He will delight or torment you in all our home programmes this season and, if that were not enough, you will have the (dubious) privilege of hearing him on the microphone for a lot of those games. How lucky can you be!

Looking Back.

Our first game at home is against Cardiff, and how appropriate that is. Our lovely Memorial Ground was opened in 1921 and our first opponents then were our old friends Cardiff. Let me give some background to that game.

We had played Cardiff 50 times before 24th September, 1921 and of those games we had won only 4. Out of 861 points we had contributed 147 and we had never won at Cardiff. Everything, therefore, pointed to a royal occasion – Cardiff the King – when the newly named Memorial Ground held its first home game.

It was a great day – perhaps the greatest ever in the Club's history. Huge efforts spear-headed by Frank Cowlin had built a superb ground, the like of which had not been seen before in the West Country. The players captained by Pickles must have had a keen sense of the occasion – superb weather and playing conditions and the largest crowd ever to watch a game of rugby in Bristol. What a thrill to run out on such an occasion and, in a very real sense, to pay tribute to friends who had died in that dreadful war, only three brief years away.

Cardiff brought their strongest side and by all accounts were confident of success. Bristol on the other hand in spite of high margin victories over Stroud and Weston had not looked convincing. On the big day, however, there was an inspiration, some special sense of the occasion, which made the Bristol performance sublime. Gone was the ordinariness, the regular acceptance of defeat at the hands of Cardiff. In its place was a resolution and a spirit (who says winning rugby matches is not in the mind?) that gave the 4000 supporters who came over from Cardiff a sense that Bristol were a vastly different proposition from now on.

It was an even struggle for three quarters of the game. But that was triumph itself for Bristol. Having realised they could hold their own and need not be overawed they really let it go in the last quarter and finished as 19 - 3 winners. The Bristol pack, trained to an unaccustomed degree of fitness, were excellent and Pickles, Quick and Corbett were a lively and effective force behind the scrum. Reg Quick, by the way, was the scorer of the first try on the Memorial Ground.

Today, 113 matches later, we again welcome Cardiff in our centenary year. Nigel Pophrey and his men, leading on aggregate by 30 points in home matches since 1980 do not have Everest to overcome today but it is still a mighty peak. Let's hope they can emulate their predecessors of 67 years ago. More important, let's hope they play the game in all the brilliant attractiveness shown on the opening day of the Memorial Ground.

The BRISTOL RUGBY FOOTBALL SCHOOLS UNION are anxious to trace the under-mentioned persons who played for England in the periods stated

18/19 Group: (1950) Richards G.B.; (1970) Ford P.G.

14/15/16 Group: (1925) Wallington F.P.; Williams A.; Wilshire J.; (1928) Roberts A.G.; Rogers L.; (1929) George G.; Shearman A.; (1931) Lovell A.; Marsh A.; (1935) Evans E.D.; Vallis R.H.F.; (1937) Hussey J.; Oxley J.B.; (1939) Cusden H.; Edwards M.; Swain P.; (1946) Bigwood G.; (1947) Bradley M.S.; Smith C.H.; (1948) Cole R.F.; (1950) Tyrell K.; (1951) Pople K.; (1958) Spratt D.; (1961) Blake C.W.; (1965) Bingham P.A.; (1981) Clark J.P.

If you have knowledge of any of the above please contact Mr. Keith Gee, 88 Stackpool Road, Bristol BS3 1NW with an address and telephone number if possible.

Visitors Notes

THE BRISTOL – CARDIFF ASSOCIATION

It appears that Cardiff's association with Bristol began on day one of the West Country Club as it is known today. The attachment dates back to the very formation of the Club which was due primarily to the initiative of the former Cardiff Secretary, Charlie Arthur, and A.R. Walbrook, who was to become Bristol's first Hon. Secretary. The inaugural match took place on The Arms Park on 6th October, 1888. Cardiff won that game by the old scoring method of 9 goals and 5 tries to nil. Since that memorable day, the Clubs have always been the greatest of friends and have thoroughly enjoyed the very healthy rivalry that exists between them.

Testimony to this relationship was later demonstrated when Bristol requested Cardiff to open their present Memorial Ground in tribute to their former players who had fallen in the Great War of 1914-18. The game was played on 24th September, 1921, and in his book on the history of The Cardiff Club the late Danny Davies, who played in the game, stated that Bristol fielded a splendid team which included L.J. Corbett and R.C. Pickles in the centre and one of the best hookers in English Rugby history, J.S. Tucker. The half-time score was 3 all, but Bristol's pressure in the second half saw a good Cardiff side beaten by 19 points to 3 by the better home side.

The next milestone in the long association occurred on 16th October, 1946, when the teams met at the Memorial Ground to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the opening. A feature of this game was the fact that Bristol requested Cardiff to include in its side the great Haydn Tanner who was teaching in Bristol at the time. This the Cardiff Club did, and so the game was Tanner's first in the famous Blue and Black. Cardiff reversed the results of the ground's opening game and ran out winners by 24 - 0. Another feature of that game was the fact that Cardiff's historian Danny Davies who had played in the opening game in 1921 returned as a Committee man in 1946 and was invited to kick off. This, by his own admission, he didn't do very successfully, although stone cold sober, but he thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings of the day.

A further strengthening of the bond of friendship came in a series of 5 floodlight games which were played at Ashton Gate and Ninian Park respectively. The first of this series in Bristol on 24th October, 1956, was won by Cardiff 20 points to 13 and brought these comments from J.B.G. Thomas of the Western Mail "A brilliant display of exhilarating open rugby football in the highest traditions of the two Clubs and crowned the Bristol Rugby Venture into the floodlit world" Bristol proved to be the better exponents of the floodlit game however, with 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat from the 5 encounters.

In between all these highlights, of course, the normal fixtures played have produced a quality of excellence second to none and have proved marvellous spectator entertainment. Many have been the occasions when the rafters have been ringing at both The Arms Park and The Memorial Ground. Indeed a non-entertaining unenterprising Bristol-Cardiff encounter has been about as unusual as seeing a photograph of Lord Lucan riding Shergar, and that's a very rare commodity, you must agree. Some 162 games have been played over these 100 years with 124 wins to Cardiff and 30 to Bristol, with the remaining 8 drawn. Victory at Cardiff is a rarity indeed for Bristol, having achieved such a result on only 4 occasions, 1922, 1928, 1931 and 1972. The game on the Arms Park of February, 1979, was abandoned a few minutes after half-time with the visitors facing a howling and icy wind. A double, therefore, has become an extra luxury and this has only come their way on 3 occasions.

So what does the second 100 years hold for the Bristol – Cardiff association? First and foremost, as far as we are concerned, we are only too delighted to begin this second centenary and hope that its generations will be as regally entertained as have been the generations of the past 100 years. Centenaries are there to be enjoyed both on and off the field and I am sure Bristol Rugby Club will do the City proud on both accounts. What better on-field activity could they achieve than a fourth double over their cross-channel opponents? If they do, it will be well deserved because we, in turn, will be doing our utmost to prevent such a happening starting this very afternoon.

To Bristol, then, on behalf of all at the Cardiff Club, we pay tribute to your magnificent contribution to the cause of English Rugby in the past. We sincerely hope that the next 100 years will be as momentous, glorious and as enjoyable as the first 100, particularly so in the superb relationship that exists between our Clubs.

PETER NYHAN.

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Club Notes

29th December, 1934. The Bristol Club have always been on the very friendliest terms with the Cardiff Club, and it is certain that when the Bristol Club first began operations they had much to thank Cardiff for, and nothing was too much for them to do, to help to put the Bristol Club on its feet. Since that time, of course, the baby has grown strong and very virile, as Cardiff will be the first to testify, until now, it would be very right to suggest that both Clubs regard each other as amongst the best fixtures on their card. The Cardiff Club have always endeavoured to display the finest features of Welsh rugby, and it would not be patting them on the back to say that they are the most consistent Club in the Principality. Results are not all-important to them. Of course to be on the winning side is their principal aim, and to achieve this they do everything in their power, but never on the battering ram idea. Their history and records show that they have always reckoned brains to beat brawn, and their name stands high all over the world, not because of the matches they have won, but because of the manner in which their games have been played and the number of brilliant men the Club have turned out. Bristol welcomes the Cardiff team, its officers and supporters.

Saturday, 5th September, 1987. The sentiments expressed over fifty years ago still hold good today. Cardiff continue to go from strength to strength and are the Welsh Cup holders. They are synonymous with style, panache, winning with modesty and being solicitous to old friends. This latter characteristic being shown by their readiness to visit us on the first Saturday of our Centenary season.

We thank Peter Nyhan, John Mason and 'Cabot' for their articles. One fact their researches have not shown is that the first game played on their new pitch at Cardiff Arms Park (the old cricket ground) was between the Athletic and Bristol United.

During the Summer Richard Harding and Jon Webb represented England in the inaugural World Cup. We congratulate them both with a special word for Jon on gaining his first 'cap'. The Club wish to thank Arnold Johnson for providing our ball boys with their smart new track suits. Our players wish to thank Inter-Craft Designs for their help with training equipment. We would also like to thank Mr. Paternoster of Harris Sports Superstore for supplying the Centenary kit.

The B.F.C. Centenary Book — *Rugby, Bristol Fashion* by Chris Ducker may be purchased from the Club Shop or Supporters Kiosks. Orders by post to the Hon. Gen. Sec. B.F.C. accompanied by Postal Orders or Cheques £8.50 plus 50p for postage. The Club wishes to thank all who have contributed to the Centenary season activities. Finally to Nigel, Ralph and John and all the Players we wish all success and trust they will be able to play the daring, inventive Rugby that is called Bristol Fashion.

Teams

BRISTOL

Yellow/Brown/Slate Grey

A	JONATHON WEBB X
B	JOHN CARR
C	JOHN WATSON
D	RALPH KNIBBS
E	DOUG WOODMAN
F	MARK TAINTON
G	RICHARD HARDING X
H	JOHN DOUBLEDAY
I	KEVIN BOGIRA
J	DARYL HICKEY
K	NIGEL POMPHRY (Capt.)
L	MATHEW SKUSE
M	DEREK EVES
N	GEOF CRANE
O	PETER POLLEDRI
P	PAUL JEFFEREY
Q	PHIL ADAMS

Touch Judge:
ANDY CLARKE

*Both teams playing in
their original colours.*

Full Back
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing

Outside Half
Scrum Half

Forwards

Replacement:

Referee:
FRED HOWARD
(Liverpool Society)

CARDIFF

Blue & Black

MIKE RAYER	15
GERALD CORDLE	14
ALAN DONOVAN	13
RICHARD CARDUS	12
ADRIAN HADLEY	11
GERAINT JOHN	10
CHRIS HUTCHINGS	9
ROBERT BILTON	1
ALAN PHILLIPS	2
STEVE BLACKMORE	3
MIKE PARRY	4
ROBERT NORSTER	5
TIM CROWTHERS	6
ROBERT LAKIN	7
PETER CRANE	8
ROBERT WILLIAMS	16
TONY JONES	17

Touch Judge:
TONY WILLIAMS

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Supporters Notes

Supporters Club Committee Officers 1987/88

President: K. Coggins.

Hon. Sec.: A. Powell.

Chairman: M. Evans.

Hon. Treasurer: J. Kemp.

Hon. Membership Sec.: D. Kinnersley.

Profile of a Supporter.

He was born and bred a Cornishman and his love of rugby started as a school-boy scrum-half; he went on to play for the Penzance/Newlyn Club ("The Pirates") where for some reason he acquired the nickname "Hooker"! He later played representative rugby while serving in the R.A.F. and took part in a cup-winning run during his National Service. On return to civilian life his playing career continued with Hayle, where he played mostly at full-back.

As a supporter, he followed County Rugby for many years (Cornwall was his first love, naturally; a trip to Coventry for a County Final was a very fond memory). He also followed Barnstaple Club when his work took him for a spell in North Devon.

He had a passion for most sports and, for a short while, followed Bristol City when he and wife Maureen and daughter Susan moved to Bristol. However, once he had established where Filton Avenue was, he became a Bristol regular and was recruited into the Supporters Club on a coach trip to Bridgend. Indeed there were very few coach trips that he and Maureen missed and he was co-opted as a steward for the trips to the John Player Cup Finals in 1983 and 1984. He was also a steady if unspectacular opening bat for the Supporters Club cricket team and a useful medium pacer who could bowl very tidily in those "limited over" matches. He was elected onto the Supporters Club Committee in 1983 and appointed as Honorary Secretary in 1984 — a suitable culmination to his rugby career. Unlike most of us, he always insisted it was indeed an "honour to serve on the Supporters Committee and he had as much pride in Bristol Rugby Club as any person you could meet, attending and assisting at functions and serving in the Club Shop.

As a rugby enthusiast he was probably more appreciative of the skills of scrum-half and the pack than any other aspect of play and Richard Harding, John Doubleday and Mike Rafter, among many others, were his favourite players. His greatest quality above all was an ability to communicate with everybody and leave them feeling indefinably more hopeful and cheerful. Many young players have appreciated a pat on the back from this cheery Cornishman and a "Well played, Matthew" (or "Jon", "Darryl" or whoever) after a hard game, no matter what the result.

Mike Hosking died in June at the tragically early age of 50 and we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Maureen and Susan while saying, in turn, "Well played, Mike"!

Do You Remember?

Wednesday, September 10th, 1986 (Home). Bristol 27: tries: Harding, Collings, Carr, Polledri, Knibbs: conversions: Tainton [2]: penalties: Tainton [1]. Cardiff 14.

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A Bristol Bias Is Born

JOHN MASON.

Not even Tom Mahoney, whose consuming loyalty to Bristol is surpassed only by the warmth of that welcoming smile and booming greeting, was present on 6th October, 1888. (That was the day that Bristol introduced themselves to the burgeoning world of Rugby Union and the destination was Cardiff. Tom would not have enjoyed the defeat that followed: a substantial, no-nonsense 24 - nil). Nor was the admirable T.A.B. Mahoney, one-time hooker, prop, touch-judge, team secretary, committee man, secretary and now, in this, the Centenary season, Bristol's President, directly involved some 66 years ago on another historic day for the club: 24th September, 1921, the official opening of the Memorial Ground, which, mud and all, was served as a magnet, attracting the best rugby can offer and, because human nature is what it is and rugby is a fierce body-contact game, some of the warts, too.

Cardiff, of course, were the first visitors to the Memorial Ground. That afternoon, against the Corbetts and the Quicks, the Shaws and the Tuckers, Cardiff were beaten 19 - 3. Some 40 years later I came to know Len Corbett well and though he was modest to the point of reticence about his playing exploits, which included being the first Bristol player to captain England, he did refer affectionately to that defeat of Cardiff. "Backs ran - a lot", he said in those clipped tones of his. "Mind you, had to. Got plenty of the pill. Didn't want to be told off by Mervyn (Shaw) afterwards, or Fred (Coventry), or Sam (Tucker), come to that! Enjoyed m'dinner that night". In case of any remote doubts or should memories need to be refreshed, Messrs Shaw, Coventry and Tucker were formidable forwards who, between them, played over 900 games for the club. "I tended to agree with them", the redoubtable Corbett admitted with a twinkle, umpteen years later.

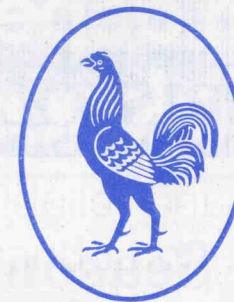
Hard though it is, I will resist the temptation to prolong the stroll down Memory Lane other than to offer a couple of personal reminiscences. In the matters of facts and figures and an informed excursion through Bristol's crowded, exciting years, the job is much better done by Chris Ducker. His Centenary history is a splendid tribute to all concerned, not least the author, whose industry and perception in pursuing the duties I did my best to discharge for the Evening Post, leave me admiringly breathless.

I would like, instead, briefly to share the affection and respect I have for the Bristol club, an institution (in its most complimentary sense) which has been a major factor in my life. Those surreptitious visits by an errant schoolboy, who should have been elsewhere, gave the Memorial Ground an air of tingling, apprehensive excitement that, 40 years on, has not entirely evaporated. Breaking school bounds - we were boarders - to watch rugby must sharpen the senses. You become acutely aware of your surrounds at all times, doubly so having spotted your housemaster in the milling crowd. There was an absurd compulsion, by way of disguise, to cheer for the opposition. But it was Gloucester, and Willie Jones was dropping goals from everywhere, so I didn't. Got to get the priorities right. Being paid now to watch the game, though considerably better than working, does not always set the taste buds, or whatever, spilling over in quite the same way.

Ever since I told Mike Ellery at Colston's School, Stapleton, in our Third Form year - I was a precocious 13 at the time - that I intended to become a journalist, specialising in Sport, of course, I count myself extremely fortunate. Remarkably maestro Ellery, who re-wrote Bristol's try-scoring records until overtaken by another Colstonian, the forthright, try-hungry Alan Morley, the world record-holder for tries in a career, listened and has remembered. He has even been known to re-tell the tale of Mason's ambition. Mind you, should anyone ever have required instruction about acquiring determination and a competitive edge, Ellery was your man. His verbal battles with the late Ronnie Morris, then Bristol's chairman of selectors, were masterpieces of ferocious debate. Ronnie always had the last word on the longer trips home after away games - he went to sleep.

Inadvertently, Mike also provided me with an early lesson in the art of never appearing to be surprised by the turn of events, a distinctly useful journalistic trait, Bristol's one-time record try-scorer scarcely played rugby at school. True, he was regarded as a runner - yes, he beat me, too - which, among other things, also shows that selectors even devoted school-masters, wedded to the game, are fallible. It was Cleve that set Ellery on the road to becoming, in my opinion, the best wing threequarter NEVER to have played for England in the course of a 10 season senior career.

Though I do not believe that either Bristol or Cardiff contain the results in their official records, Ellery was the star of those floodlit matches between the club at Ninian Park - perhaps Ashton Gate, too, though the match there I best remember was against Tony O'Reilly's XV in the autumn of 1958 in my general reporting days. Nor did I play truant to be there! Bristol won twice at Ninian Park - was it an Ellery hat-trick? I think so - so maybe those inhibitions which began on October 6th, 1888, were ill-founded after all. I would like to think so. But then, I have a Bristol bias born a long time ago. "Come on, Bris!"



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Centenary Season Fixtures

1st XV

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	5	Cardiff	H	3.00		2	Bedford	A	
	12	Newport	H	3.00		9	Coventry	H	3.00
	19	Swansea	A			16	Aberavon	A	
	22	Weston-super-Mare (Tues.)	A			† 23	John Player Cup		
	26	Gloucester C.C.C.	H	3.00		30	Northampton	H	3.00
	30	Met. Police (Wed.)	H	7.15			Gloucester (Fri.)	A	
Oct.	3	London Irish	A		Feb.	5			
	10	Wasps C.C.C.	H	3.00		† 13			
	17	Bath C.C.C.	A			20	Richmond	A	
	21	The Barbarians (All Pay) (W)	H	7.15		† 27	Saracens	H	3.00
	24	Sale C.C.C.	H	3.00	Mar.	1	Cardiff (Tues.)	A	
	31	Nottingham C.C.C.	A			4	Kelso (Fri.)	A	
Nov.	4	Glam. Wanderers (Wed.)	A			6	Selkirk (Sun.)	A	
	7	Bridgend	H	3.00		12	London Scottish	A	
	14	Orrell C.C.C.	A			18	Begles Bordeaux (Fri.)	H	7.15
	21	London Welsh	A			22	Clifton (Tues.)	A	
	28	S.W. Police	H	3.00		† 26	Rosslyn Park	H	3.00
Dec.	5	Newport	A		Apr.	2	Bath	H	3.00
	12	Moseley C.C.C.	H	3.00		4	Glam. Wanderers (Mon.)	H	3.00
	19	Leicester C.C.C.	A			9	Leicester	H	3.00
	26	Weston-super-Mare	H	3.00		12	Exeter (Wed.)	A	
	28	Llanelli (Mon.)	H	3.00		16	Harlequins C.C.C.	A	
						20	Stroud (Wed.)	A	
						23	Coventry C.C.C.	A	
						† 30	Waterloo C.C.C.	H	3.00

UNITED XV

1987 Sept.	2	Nelson (Wed.)	A		1988 Jan.	2			
	5	Cardiff Ath.	A			9	Coventry 'A'	A	
	12	Newport United	A			16	Stoke	H	3.00
	19	Bridgend Ravens	H	3.00		23	Richmond Vikings	H	3.00
	26	Gloucester United	A			30	Plymouth Ex. 1st	A	
Oct.	3	Abercarn	H	3.00	Feb.	6	Gloucester United	H	3.00
	10	Wasps Vandals	A			13	Cardiff Ath.	H	3.00
	17	Bath United	H	3.00		17	Berry Hill (Wed.)	A	
	24	Bedford 2nds	A			20	Bridgend Ravens	A	
	31	Nottingham Centaurs	H	3.00		27	Neath Ath.	H	3.00
Nov.	7	Rosslyn Park 2nds	A		Mar.	2	Bristol Combination (Wed.)	H	6.30
	11	Combination Cup Winners				5	Scottish Tour		
		Avonmouth (Wed.)	H	7.15		12	Blaina	H	3.00
	14	London Irish 2nds	H	3.00		26	Abergavenny	A	
	21	London Welsh Druids	H	3.00			Bath United	A	
	28	Neath Ath.	A		Apr.	2	Caldcott (Wed.)	H	7.15
Dec.	5	Newport United	H	3.00		6	Leicester 'A'	A	
	9	Bristol University (Wed.)	H	7.15		9	Harlequins Wdrs	A	
	12	Moseley United	A			16	Coventry 'A'	H	3.00
	19	Bournemouth	H	3.00		23	Nottingham Centaurs	A	
	26	Coney Hill	A			30			

COLTS

1987 Sept.	5	Cardiff	H		1988 Jan.	2	Bedford	A	
	12	Pencoed	H			9	Cardiff High School O.Boys	H	
	19	Harlow	H			16	Moseley	A	
	26	Ivybridge	A			23	Harlow	A	
	27	Teignmouth (Sun.)	A			30	Cheltenham	A	
Oct.	3	Winchester	H		Feb.	7	Pontypridd	H	
	10	Honiton	A			13	Rosslyn Park	A	
	17	Moseley	H			20	RAF Colts	A	
	24	Taunton	A			27	Nuneaton	H	
	31	Builth Wells	A		Mar.	5	Bedwas	A	
Nov.	7	Glamorgan Wanderers	A			12	Taunton	H	
	14	Rosslyn Park	H			20	Neath Athletic (Sun.)	A	
	21	Wolverhampton	A			27	Army Colts (Sun.)	A	
	28	Bath	H		Apr.	2	Glamorgan Wanderers	H	
Dec.	5	Bedwas	H			9	Leicester	A	
	12	Barnstaple	H			16	Bath	A	
	19	Worcester	H			23	Wasps	A	
	26	Clifton	A			27	Cinderford (Wed.)	H	
						30	Cardiff	A	

Abbreviations for 1st XV Fixture list:

C.C.C. = Courage Club Championship † John Player Cup

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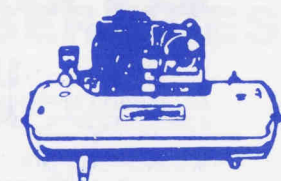
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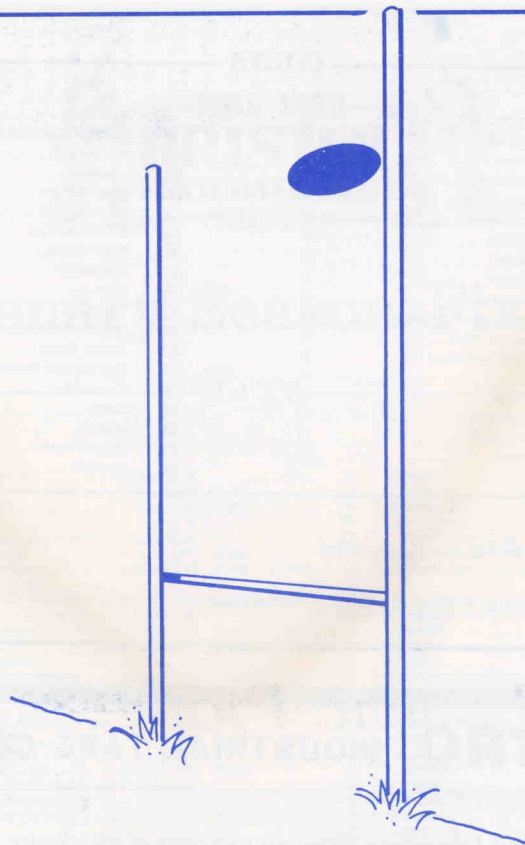
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