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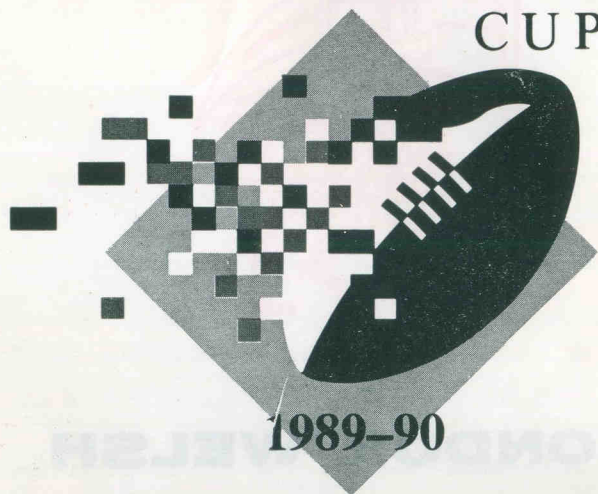
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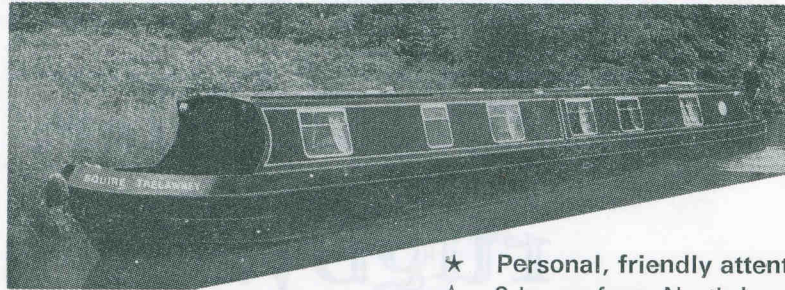
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Sept. 16	A	Met. Police
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Sept. 30	A	Newport
Oct. 7	H	London Scottish
Oct. 14	H	Camb. Univ. LX
Oct. 21	A	Swindon
Oct. 28	A	Saracens
Nov. 4	H	Coventry
Nov. 11	A	Richmond
Nov. 18	A	Staines
Nov. 25	H	Welsh Guards
Dec. 2	A	Rosslyn Park
Dec. 9	H	Bargoed
Dec. 16	A	Bath
Dec. 23	A	London Irish
Jan. 6	A	Bristol
Jan. 13	A	Maidstone
Jan. 27	A	Wasps
Feb. 3	H	Blackheath
Feb. 10	A	Leicester
Feb. 17	H	Garndiffaith
Feb. 24	H	Maesteg Celtic
Mar. 3	A	7th Paras Reg.
Mar. 10	H	Borough Road
Mar. 17	H	Harlequins
Mar. 24	A	Croesyceiliog
Mar. 31	A	Merthyr
Apr. 7	A	Nottingham Corsairs

Other Big Dates

Jan. 20	England v Ireland (Twickenham) Wales v France (Cardiff)
Jan. 27	Pilkington Cup (Round 3)
Feb. 3	France v England (Paris) Ireland v Scotland (Dublin)
Feb. 10	Pilkington Cup (Round 4)
Feb. 17	England v Wales (Twickenham) Scotland v France (Murrayfield)
Feb. 24	Pilkington Cup (Quarter-Finals)
Mar. 3	Wales v Scotland (Cardiff) France v Ireland (Paris)
Mar. 17	Scotland v England (Murrayfield)
Mar. 24	Ireland v Wales (Dublin) Pilkington Cup (Semi-Finals)
Apr. 7	County Final (Twickenham)
May 5	Pilkington Cup Final (Twickenham) Schweppes Cup Final (Cardiff)
May 12	Middlesex Sevens (Twickenham)

The Old Deer Park Story (Part Two)

Although Old Deer Park has been home to many sports, cricket and rugby have always held centre stage. It is, indeed, the oldest rugby ground in continuous use in the entire land, with the first game being played here in the 1866-67 season. Originally, the ground was used by clubs on a casual basis, but in 1873-74, the immensely powerful Richmond club took over the ground, remaining for nearly 16 years, before moving into the new Richmond Athletic Ground in 1888-89. Though London Scottish immediately quit their newly acquired premises at Brondesbury, to move to Old Deer Park, a dispute over terms soon forced them to leave, and in 1894-95 they commenced their historic co-tenancy with Richmond at the Athletic Ground.

Old Deer Park was not to be empty for a moment. Rosslyn Park instantly left their old ground at Gunnersbury Lane, Acton, and were joined, in another co-tenancy, by Old Merchant Taylors. Like many old boys sides of the age, the OMT's were then a force to be reckoned with, having the measure of clubs like Cardiff. But they left for good at the end of the 1922-23 season, for a new ground of their own in Teddington. Rosslyn Park stayed until 1957, however, before moving to their present headquarters in Roehampton. Some Park elders are still trying to get over the shock of leaving Old Deer Park, for quite apart from its superb setting, it has excellent drainage, which is more than can be said for cosy, friendly, but muddy Roehampton!

The rest is history. The Welsh said farewell to their own mudbath in Herne Hill, and in September, 1957, faced an international side led by Rees Stephens, in a special game to celebrate the start of Welsh life in Richmond. The Observer correspondent, H. B. Toft, captured the occasion perfectly: "The warmth, the sunshine, the rich green, the marquee, the bare heads, the blazers and bright trees and Welsh national costume here and there provided as gay a scene as if it were in one of the valleys. Lord Tenby, old player, president and stout friend of the club, finding Old Deer Park in this dress fit even for the Welsh, formally and elegantly annexed the territory and bade 7,000 spectators put their feet under the table for keeps."

Since that day more than 32 years ago, London Welsh have played 598 times at Old Deer Park, winning 365, losing 204 and drawing 29. Never, however, have more points been scored in a game here than last October, when Llanelli won by 49-32 in a match of 14 tries. The greatest Welsh victory was on a balmy September evening in 1971, when the Wasps were routed by 72-6. Until the Welsh came to Richmond, the largest gatherings were usually for the Public Schools Sevens, launched by Rosslyn Park in 1939, but all records were shattered on the morning of January 15th, 1972, for the visit of Cardiff, when the turnstiles clicked over 7,995 times. But since armies were seen invading the ground via Kew Gardens, the golf course, and even the ha-ha, the actual number at the game was certainly in excess of 10,000. One could approve of their zeal, if not their mode of entry. After all, where else in this land is it more congenial to watch this game of games. As Lord Tenby so eloquently said, we should put our feet under the Old Deer Park table for keeps.

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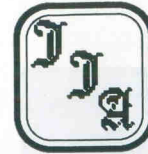
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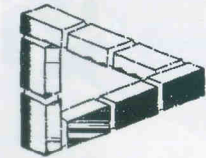
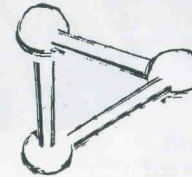
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Wales v France	Cardiff	Jan 20
England v Ireland	Twickenham	Jan 20
France v England	Paris	Feb 3
England v Wales	Twickenham	Feb 17
Middlesex Sevens	Twickenham	May 12

Supporters Tours		
France v England	Paris	Feb 3
Ireland v Scotland	Dublin	Feb 3
Scotland v England	Edinburgh	Mar 17
Ireland v Wales	Dublin	Mar 24

"Sevens" Weekends		
Hong Kong Sevens	Mar 31-Apr 1	
Benidorm Sevens	May 18-20	
Monte Carlo Sevens	Aug 19-21	

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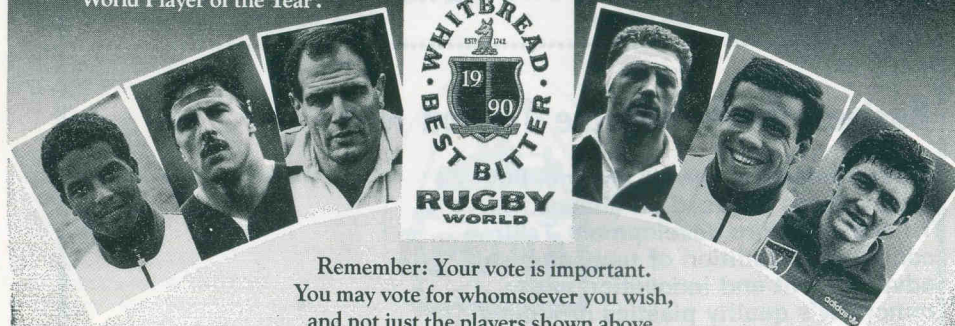
VOTE FOR YOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR AND WIN TWO SEATS AT THE AWARDS LUNCHEON

1990 sees the third year of the prestigious Whitbread Best Bitter Rugby World Awards – and what a line up!

From the year's thrilling season our panel of judges has nominated and voted for eleven awards including International Player of the Year and Youth Team of the Year.

And you can join in the celebrations by voting for the ultimate award in Rugby, 'Whitbread Best Bitter Rugby World Player of the Year'.

All you have to do is complete the Voting Form below, clearly stating who you are voting for, and you and your partner could be our V.I.P. guests at the awards Luncheon at Whitbread's Porter* Tun Rooms in London on Tuesday 8th May. The winners will be the first 10 names drawn from those who selected the winning 'Whitbread Best Bitter Rugby World Player of the Year'.



Remember: Your vote is important.
You may vote for whomsoever you wish,
and not just the players shown above.

Your vote must be received by 2nd April 1990.

The 10 winners will be notified by post by 10th April 1990.

The 1990 Awards: International Player of the Year, Senior Team of the Year, Youth Team of the Year, Referee of the Year, The Unsung Hero, Services to Rugby, Photograph of the Year, Services to Journalism, Junior Club of the Year, Most Promising Player, Coach of the Year.

VOTING FORM

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I NOMINATE _____ FOR
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Please send this form to:
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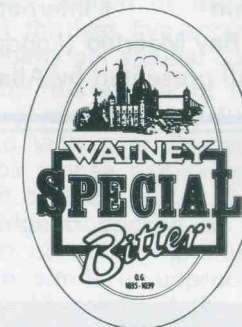
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LONDON WELSH v CARDIFF

LONDON WELSH (Colour — Scarlet)		CARDIFF (Colours — Blue & Black Hoops)	
15	Cris Cormack	Full Back	Mike Rayer* 15
14	Simon Jones	Threequarters	Steve Ford 14
13	Jim Williams		Anthony Donovan 13
12	Guy Leleu		Geraint Lewis 12
11	Micky Bell		Damion Griffiths 11
10	Gareth Hughes	Fly Half	Craig Miller 10
9	† Mark Douglas	Scrum Half	Paul John 9
1*	Julian Davies	Forwards	Tony Orrell 1
2	David van Praagh		Ian Greenslade 2
3	Ron Williams		Steve Blackmore † 3
4	Chris Blake		Stuart Nunnerley 4
5	David Harries		Stuart Roy 5
6	† Michael Speight		Owen Golding 6
8	Peter Lillington		Howard Stone 8
7	Jeremy Evans		Matthew Lloyd 7
REPLACEMENTS:		REPLACEMENTS:	
16	Mark Humphreys-Evans		John Humphreys 16
17	Phil Parker		Mark Edwards 17
18	Malcolm Hall	Andy Moore or Graham Pritchard	18

* Captain † International

Referee: **Mr. Ray Meerloo** (London Society)

Match Ball presented by Allan Price

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CLUB NOTES

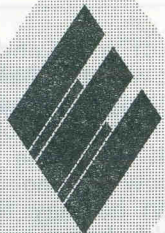
You may want to call up one of your London Welsh friends during the weekend. We often do, don't we? But here's a tip. If he's one of those gregarious types who has pledged himself to a weekend of gross indulgence, attending last night's smoker, this morning's game, Twickenham and the Ball—all in a time span of roughly 30 hours—don't ring him before tomorrow afternoon, if then, and certainly not during 'Rugby Special,' when he may finally begin to emerge from his torpor. The patient probably has a sore head already, and his condition will assuredly get worse before it gets better. So be considerate!

What with all this fresh morning air, today's game with Cardiff is the nearest many of us will get to clean, healthy living. But however much we may punish our bodies, the morning tilt with our most welcome guests is an indispensable part of the ritual, and for a few hours, at least, natives and exiles can mix in a spirit of perfect harmony.

Whether that harmony extends to events on the field of play is a moot point. It will not have escaped anyone's attention, we imagine, that when Cardiff come up here, we are invariably the perfect hosts, granting our visitors the freedom of Old Deer Park. But hospitality can be overdone. The sad truth is that our record against Cardiff reads like something out of the Spanish Armada—15 wins, 88 defeats. Last December's affair at the Arms Park was a poignant example of the genre, with the Welsh playing some enterprising rugby and scoring three tries, while Cardiff ran the ball from angles that would have floored Pythagoras, to score twelve of their own. But do not lose heart, we have won two of the last five scraps here, which represents far better odds than we normally get against Cardiff.

Cardiff do not, in fact, claim this as one of their better seasons. Ebbw Vale, like us, were victims of the Blue and Black magic (56-13), while notable victories were also won over Pontypool (21-13), Pontypridd (27-6) and a host of clubs whose names appear in rugby's Debrett, but who are presently down on their luck. The debit column, however, is longer than usual. Bridgend packed a double punch, Swansea, Neath and Wasps all won at the Arms Park, and visits to Bristol, Leicester and Llanelli were similarly unproductive. Harlequins even had the temerity to pile up 43 points at the Stoop. Yet Cardiff, who divided the spoils with Bath (10-10), have this knack of raising their game when it matters most. Their display against New Zealand (15-25) was at least as good as that provided by any other Welsh opposition, while many of us will have warmed to the riveting, televised cup game with Llanelli at the Arms Park just three weeks ago, culminating with Cardiff's magnificent match-winning try.

It does seem that things are stirring down Cardiff way. Less than enthusiastic, perhaps, about the paeans of praise heaped upon Neath and Llanelli in recent years, Cardiff have embarked upon a programme of team rebuilding and ground refurbishment, which many informed critics feel could make them one of the clubs of the nineties. Who are we to gainsay them? Their many friends here at Old Deer Park will certainly wish them well.



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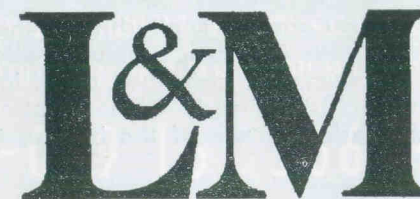
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TOUCHLINES

★ This morning's game is being sponsored by the firm of chartered accountants, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte. Their continued support of London Welsh rugby is very greatly appreciated by all of us, and we hope their party thoroughly enjoy their day at Old Deer Park.

★ We are also most grateful to Allan Price, who has been kind enough to provide the match ball for today's game.

★ Because Leicester are cup-tied, next week's scheduled visit to Welford Road has had to be cancelled. But the splendid news is that we won't have to travel at all, for our good friends from Blackheath will be paying us a very welcome visit. Kick-off is at 2.30 p.m.

★ In a fortnight's time, March 3rd (2.45 p.m.), we have an attractive game with Saracens, who are more than holding their own in the first division. Believe it or not, but this will be the Sarrie's first Saturday visit since 1971, so come along and enjoy the action.

★ The ever-active Supporters Club have two coach trips next month. Details of the Exeter trip are shown elsewhere, but there is also a coach to Cardiff on March 3rd for the Wales-Scotland game, leaving ODP at 9 a.m. The £10 fare includes entry to St. David's Hall.

★ The juniors are holding a lunch at the Insurance Hall, Aldermanbury, EC2 on Wednesday, February 28th, in aid of the Under-16's. There will be traditional Welsh dishes and real ale, with entertainment provided by Bryn Phillips, the Welsh Comedian of the Year. The 'Gwalia' will lead the singing and Welsh sporting personalities will be present. Tickets cost £25, and David Thomas (606 4765) can provide further details.

★ Don't forget the hot-line with the hot news, which took to the air last Sunday. Dafydd Jones's round-up of all the latest club news is updated on Wednesdays and Sundays. The number to ring is 0839 083 660, with calls being charged at 25p per minute off-peak and 38p at other times. And remember, every call provides vital income for the club.

BRIDGEND BACKS TAKE THE HONOURS

The Bridgend backs, purposeful and crisp, scored five times at Old Deer Park with first-half tries coming from their pacy wings, Glenn Webbe and former London Welshman, Richard Wintle. Yet the Welsh, seven points adrift midway through the first half, hit back impressively. With Cris Cormack finally hitting the target, after striking the post and bar with long-range penalty attempts, and Gareth Hughes turning on a sixpence to drop two goals in as many minutes, the Welsh turned round 12-10 ahead. Though flattered by their margin of victory, Bridgend made full use of the breeze, to pull clear in the second period.

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We are holding a collection today for the London Welsh School's Parent-Teachers' Association, which does such fine work in enriching the life of Welsh people in London. This North London school, founded in 1961, offers a bilingual education for children up to 11. Maintaining our strong ties with the school are Wyn Price Davies, our President 1981-84, who has been the Senior Trustee for many years, and Alun Thomas, our Vice-Chairman, who is Hon. Treasurer to the Trustee body. Please give well. "O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau!"

SPRINGTIME IN DEVON ?

Just three weeks from now we shall be locked in another life or death struggle in the Courage league. Maybe that's pitching a bit too strongly, but there's no doubt that our game at Exeter on March 10th is of great importance to the club. The way that the crowd rallied in support of the side for the game with Fylde was deeply appreciated by the players and they would certainly welcome similar backing at Exeter.

A day trip to Exeter presents no problems. The Supporters Club will be running a coach, with a round-trip cost of £10. Departure from Old Deer Park will be at 8.30 a.m. If you prefer to go under your own steam, there's an excellent train service from Paddington. The 10.25, for example, arrives at Exeter St. David's at 12.20. And if you would rather drive down, it's the M4/M5 virtually all the way. Why not even think about an early Springtime weekend break? You've got Dartmoor and the Devon Coast only a few miles away, not to mention Exeter itself. End of commercial—but do try and make it!

By car, continue to the end of the M5 and follow the signpost to Okehampton. Turn off at the Exeter (Marsh Barton) signpost and follow the City Centre signs to Sainsbury's, left-hand lane under railway bridge. St. Thomas station, first left, first right. The main entrance to the County Ground is at the rear of St. Thomas Church, in Cowick Street.

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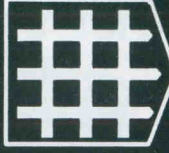
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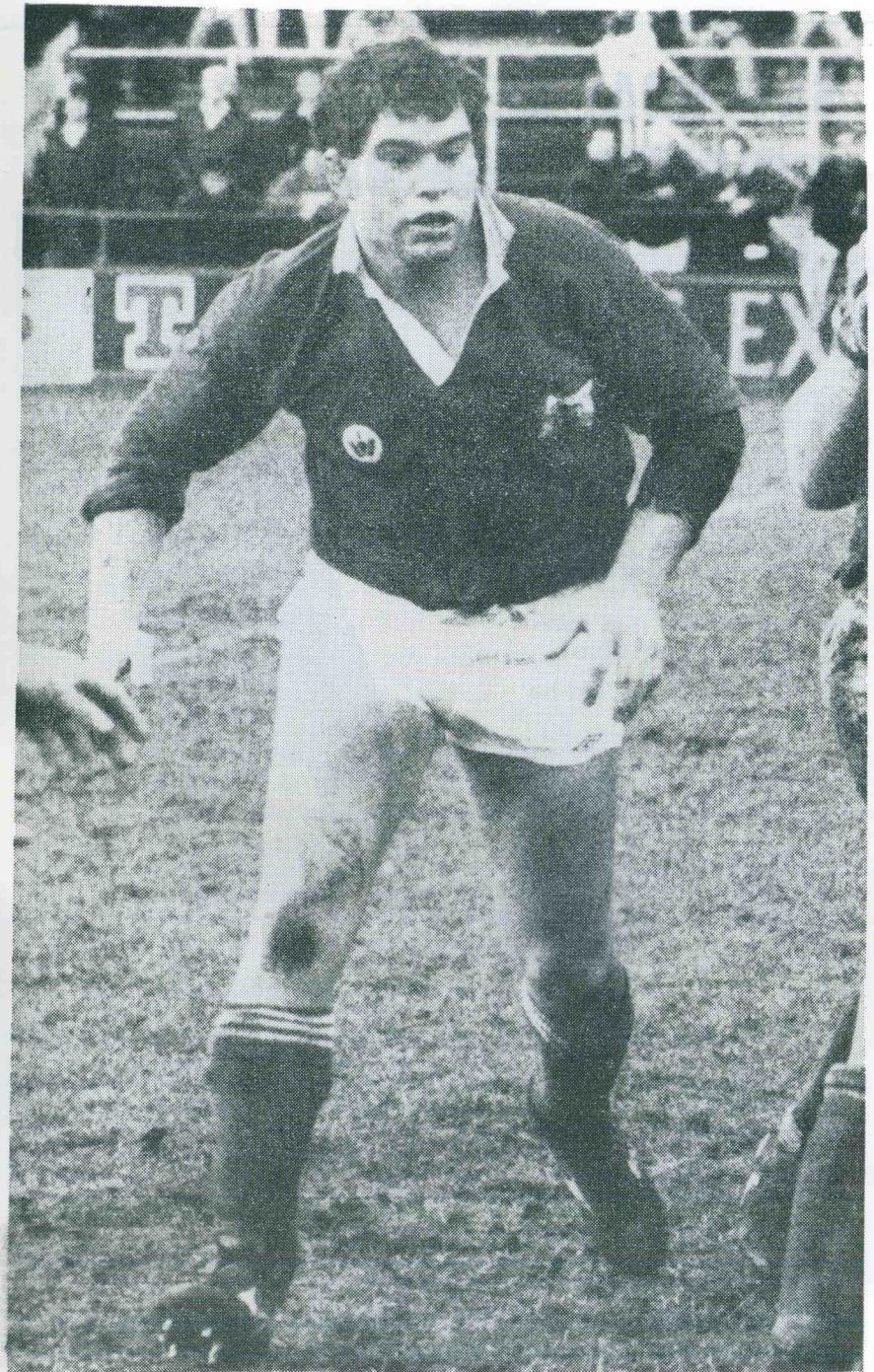
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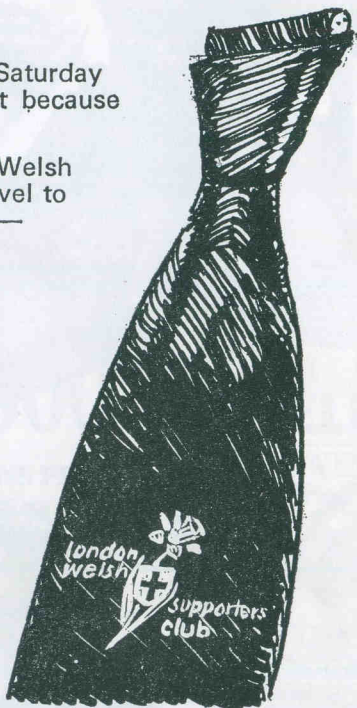
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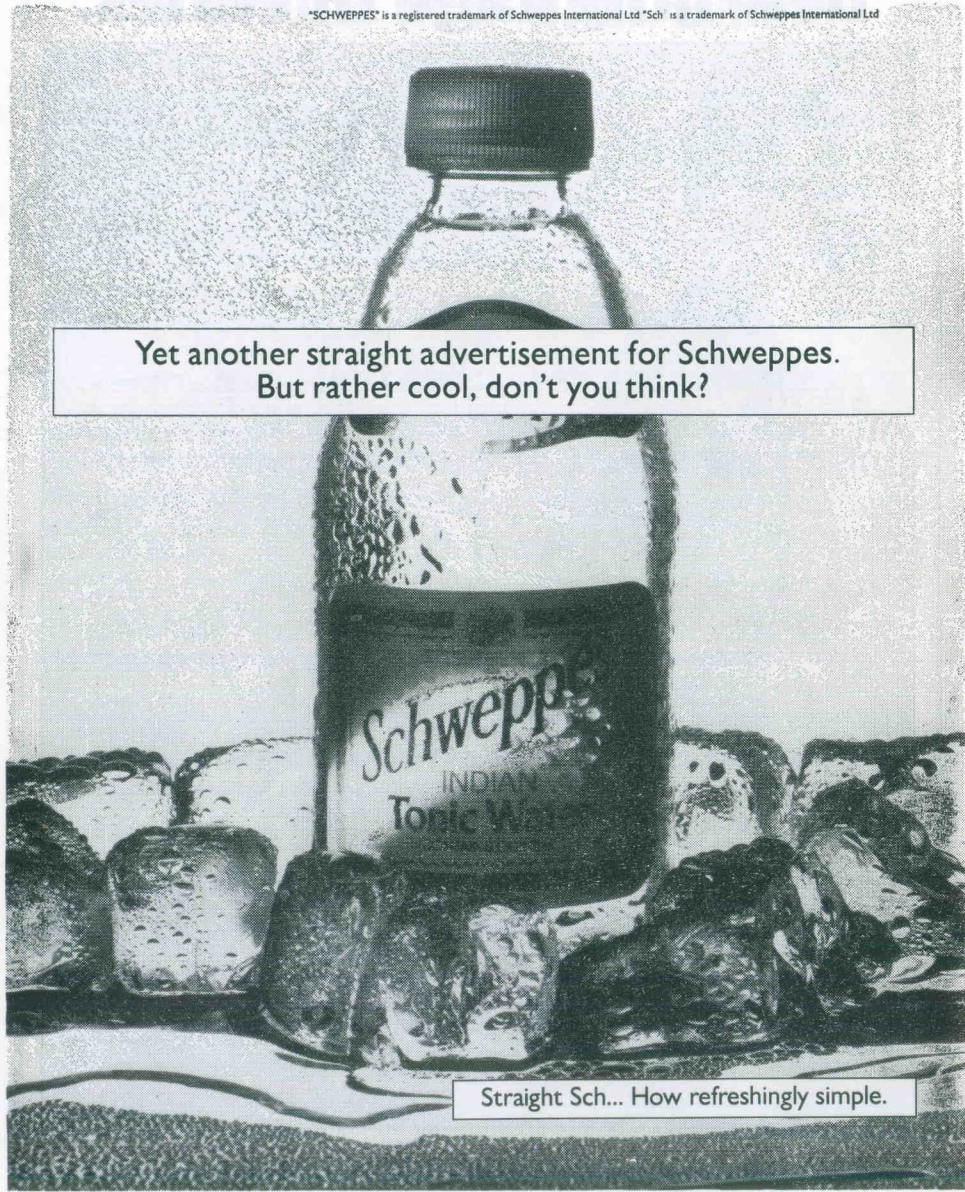
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FIRST XV FIXTURES 1989-90

Sept. 2	A	South Wales Police	9-24	Jan. 1	A	Richmond	0-13
Sept. 9	A	Vale of Lune (L)	0-9	Jan. 6	H	Bristol	9-19
Sept. 16	A	Sidcup (PC1)	29-3	Jan. 13	H	Fylde (L)	29-9
Sept. 23	H	Sheffield (L)	20-0	Jan. 21	H	Public School Wan.	7-0
Sept. 30	H	Newport	6-23	Jan. 27	H	Leicester (PC3)	3-43
Oct. 7	A	Rosslyn Park	4-15	Feb. 3	A	Harlequins	cancelled
Oct. 14	A	Askeans (L)	26-29	Feb. 10	H	Bridgend	12-31
Oct. 21	H	Llanelli	32-49	Feb. 17	H	Cardiff	
Oct. 28	H	Nuneaton (L)	9-10	Feb. 24	H	Blackheath	
Nov. 4	H	Drybrook (PC2)	15-9	Mar. 3	H	Saracens	
Nov. 11	A	London Scottish (L)	14-18	Mar. 10	A	Exeter (L)	
Nov. 18	H	Lydney (L)	3-28	Mar. 17	A	Maesteg	
Nov. 25	A	Roundhay (L)	6-22	Mar. 24	H	Moseley	
Dec. 2	H	Aberavon	38-13	Mar. 31	H	West Hartlepool (L)	
Dec. 9	A	Cardiff	14-60	Apr. 7	H	Swansea	
Dec. 16	H	Bath	10-35	Apr. 14	A	Aberavon	
Dec. 23	H	Welsh Univ.	44-0	Apr. 16	A	Newport	
Dec. 26	A	Llanelli	3-77	Apr. 21	A	Birkenhead Park	
Dec. 30	H	Wasps	8-25	Apr. 28	A	Wakefield (L)	

DRUIDS CHALLENGE FOR LEAGUE TITLE !

Though the Druids have slipped from their perch in recent weeks, suffering heavy defeats at the hands of Bristol (6-53), Wasps (7-54) and Leicester (6-45), and losing to Richmond (10-24), they won a substantial victory over Maidstone (23-0) and are making a strong challenge to win the league for the second teams of senior London clubs. Going into the New Year, the table looked like this:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LONDON WELSH DRUIDS	6	5	0	1	111	51	10
Wasps Vandals	5	4	0	1	99	38	8
Blackheathens	7	4	0	3	126	88	8
Rosslyn Park XXX	9	4	0	5	145	151	8
Richmond Vikings	6	3	1	2	86	76	7
Saracens Crusaders	7	3	0	4	92	108	6
London Scottish Extra 1st	6	2	1	3	89	100	5
London Irish Wildgeese	4	1	1	2	48	85	3
Met. Police Extra 1st	3	1	0	2	49	77	2
Harlequin Wanderers	5	0	1	4	58	130	1

FOR THE RECORD

- Feb. 10th:** London Welsh 12 (G. Hughes 2d, C. Cormack 2p). Bridgend 31
- Team Record:** Played 25, Won 7, Lost 18, Points 350-564
- Most Games:** J. Williams 23, J. Davies 21, M. Thomas 21, L. Evans 20, G. Leleu 16
- Most Tries:** G. Hughes 7, M. Thomas 7, G. Leleu 5, M. Douglas, Simon Jones, M. Speight, J. Williams, each 3
- Most Points:** M. Thomas 54 G. Hughes 52, P. Parker 40, L. Evans 36, G. Leleu 20

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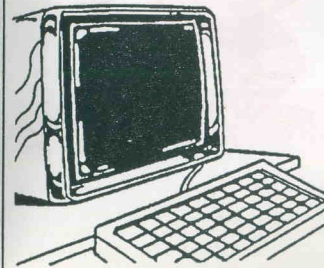
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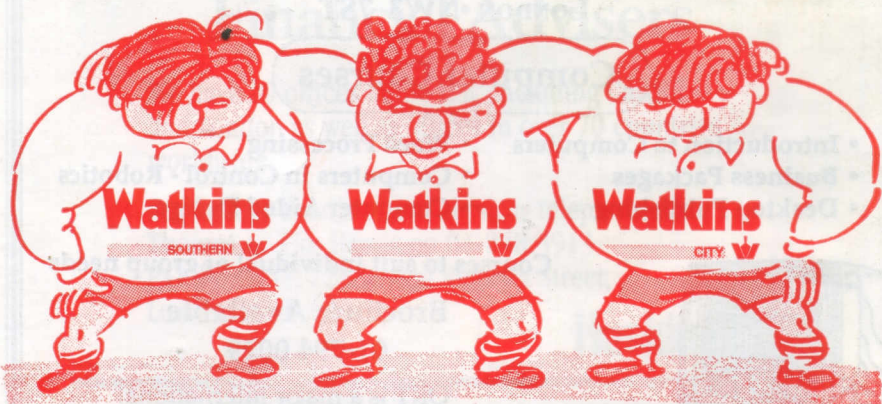


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