

LONDON WELSH RFC



LONDON WELSH v CARDIFF

SATURDAY
MARCH 7th, 1992
Kick-off 11.00 a.m.

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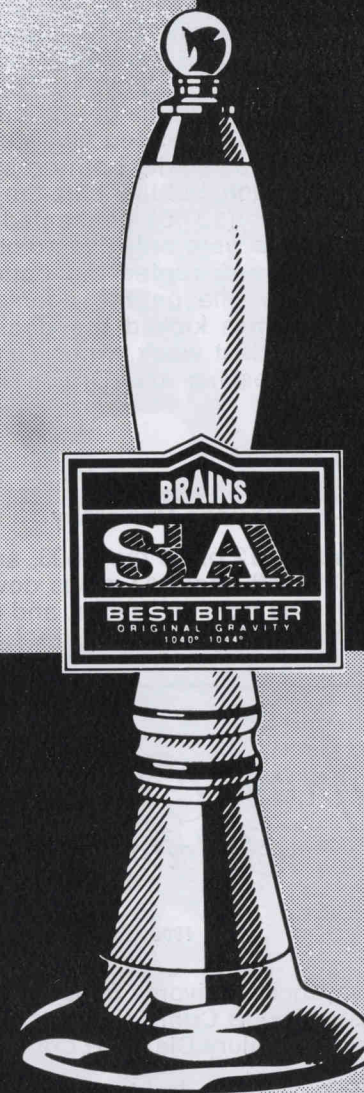
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Grim February For Druids

The Druids had a cracking game in Gloucester against the city's number two team, Gordon League. The home side, big rivals of Berry Hill in South-West One, eventually won 15-10, but were given a gruelling test by the Druids' pack, in which Earle Wilkes and Simon Page were outstanding. A try by Peter Walters and two penalties by Rhys Gravelle added to the excitement. But the Druids got no change out of Rosslyn Park (13-65), whose strong side included Guy Leleu. The side fought well, with Karl Edwards and Neil Darke both crossing and Phil Parker landing a penalty and conversion, but this time they were overmatched. The heavy defeat by Leicester (13-46) concealed a massive effort for three parts of the game. There were only five points in it going into the final quarter, but late injuries disrupted the pattern of play and the Tigers seized the chance to pile on the agony. Peter Walters got the Welsh try and Phil Thomas kicked the goals. Sadly, there was frustration of a different sort last week, when Croesyceiliog cried off late on the Friday night, leaving the Druids no time to line up alternative opponents.

HOW TO GET THERE

Saturday, March 14th — Cambridge University

Exit from the M11 at junction 12 on to the A603, and the Grange Road ground is a turning on the left about 1½ miles down the road. Its fine location is just over 400 yards from the Backs, and only half a mile from the heart of the city. By train from Liverpool Street.

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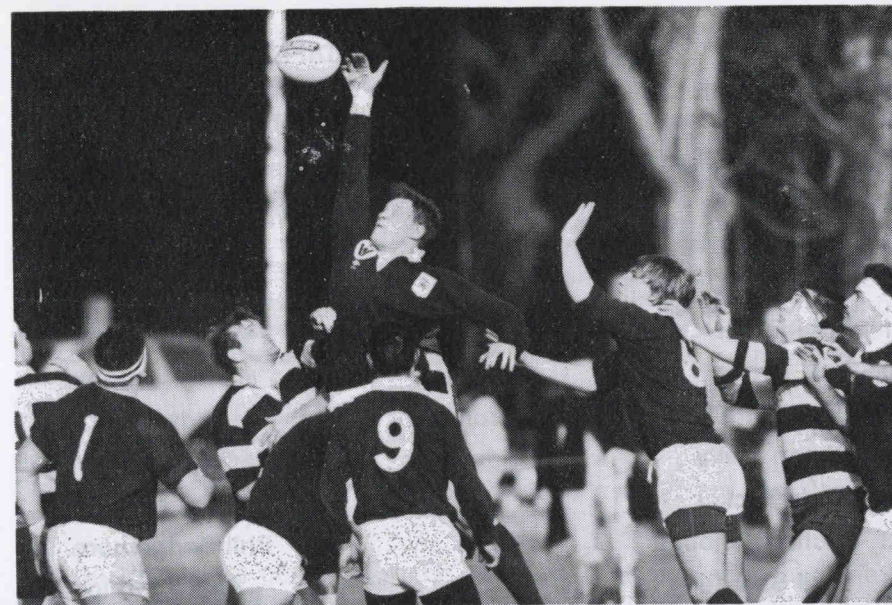
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WISH LONDON WELSH R.F.C. EVERY SUCCESS IN THE
FORTHCOMING SEASON.



So near, and yet so far. Although the narrow defeat by Havant was a heavy blow to promotion hopes, the Welsh never lacked commitment. Good possession was won in the lineout, with Dai Harries and Matt Dawson frequently winning ball from the big Havant pack (top), and when the visitors' backs did break out they often met with full-blooded tackling of the sort handed out by Steve Thomas and Tim Pike (above).

LONDON WELSH v CARDIFF

LONDON WELSH (Colour — Scarlet)		CARDIFF (Colours — Cambridge Blue & Black)	
15	Rhodri Phillips	Full Back	Mike Thomas 15
14	Micky Bell	Threequarters	Ian Jeffreys 14
13	Steve Thomas		Simon Hill 13
12	Tim Pike		Alun Hardman 12
11	Paul Futter		Martin Liddiatt 11
10	Lee Evans	Fly Half	Chris John 10
9	Gerallt Phillips	Scrum Half	Andy Moore 9
1	Simon Kelly	Forwards	Kevin Matthews 1
2	Andy Tucker		Ian Greenslade 2
3	Richard Thomas		Phil Sedgemore 3
4	Paul Strinati		Paul Kawulok 4
5	David Harries		Mark Edwards 5
6†	Brendan Dawson		Howard Stone 6
8	*Lee Thomas		Ian Henbrow 8
7	Andy Newcombe		Neil Baxter 7
REPLACEMENTS:		REPLACEMENTS:	
16	Richard Nicholas		Ian Watkins 16
17	Huw Butler		Andy Booth 17
18			Paul Edwards 18
19			Gareth Roberts 19

* Captain † International

Referee: **Roger Quittenton** (London Society)

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CLUB NOTES

This is the weekend of the Churchill gene. We read in the papers recently that the great man ate too much, drank too much, smoked too much, was overweight, and made do on four hours sleep, before planning a brilliant military campaign in Europe or North Africa. He finally met his Maker at 90. Those in the medical profession who can't explain why such an heroically dissolute lifestyle should lead to a long and fulfilling life attribute it all to a special gene. Well, we have some good advice for those who are researching the phenomenon. Go and examine a cross-section of the London Welsh membership, for on weekends like this they follow Churchill's example to the letter. If this is the path to a long and happy life, then many London Welshmen are well on their way to becoming centenarians. Not, you understand, that we have ever actually met any of the indestructible types who stagger from Smoker, to ODP, to HQ, to the Ball—all in a space of less than 30 hours. Beam me up, Scottie!

And so to today's game. Morning rugby has always split the faithful into two camps. For some, it's an absolute no-no. For others, it's simply the start to a day of reckless indulgence, double-headers and sore heads. Well, the rugby metabolism may not be up to much at eleven in the morning, but when Cardiff are the visitors and there's a tilt at the old enemy this afternoon, we dare say that even those who abhor rugby of the a.m. variety will be thin on the ground. And so saying, let us give a rousing fraternal welcome to our ever-popular guests—not only from Cardiff, incidentally, but also from Garndiffaith, who take on the Druids.

Sadly, these are unusual and rather painful days for Cardiff, who find themselves near the bottom of the table and out of the Schweppes Cup. They did win useful league victories over Maesteg (32-6) and Pontypridd (19-12), and drew with Neath (3-3) at the Gnoll, but they have suffered double defeats at the hands of Swansea, Newbridge and Bridgend, and were also beaten by Pontypridd, Llanelli and Newport. If Cardiff don't seem overly anxious, it is because this season there is to be no relegation from the first division. As for the Cup, having won an overwhelming victory at Pencoed (58-10), they surrendered to arch-rivals Newport (4-12) in a thrilling sixth-round tie at the Arms Park.

Outside the spotlight of league and cup, however, Cardiff have been doing rather well. They did lose narrowly to Bath, Gloucester and Leicester, but beat Bristol, Nottingham and Saracens, and trounced Wasps (33-8), who had the temerity to send a weakened side to the Arms Park. There are those who have suggested that the traditional Anglo-Welsh club fixture no longer has any value, but that is an absurd proposition, for it rests on the premise that longstanding ties of friendship are unimportant. We have never knocked playing for points or pots, but on such a day as this, we only want to be in the company of those we simply call friends. That is why Cardiff are so welcome this morning.

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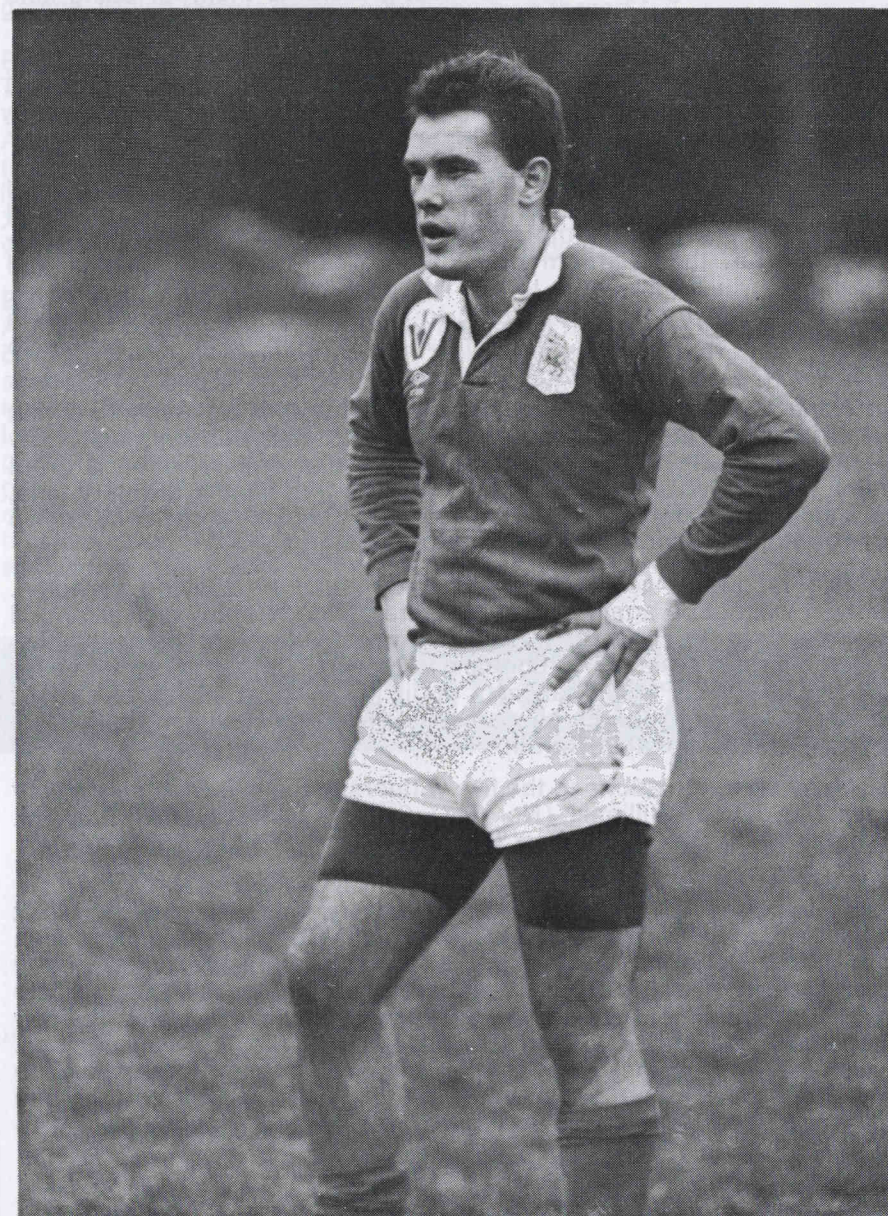
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Whether standing firm under the high ball, tackling till he drops, or outstripping opposing defences, Owen Robins has been a key figure in the exciting young London Welsh division. Owen is now in his second season with the Welsh and scored his fifth try this term in the recent game at Bedford.

TOUCHLINES

★ Welsh Development International have long been good friends of London Welsh rugby, and we are most grateful to them for being kind enough to sponsor this morning's game with Cardiff.

★ Our warm thanks are also due to Colin Williams and Lowri Davies, who have presented today's match ball, and to Edgar Thomas, Chairman of the Voyagers who is supporting the 'Man of the Match' award. Their generous gestures are much appreciated.

★ Because of the large crowds who traditionally attend the morning game with Cardiff, please note that entry to the main bar will be limited to full members, who should produce membership booklets if requested. However, the tea-room bar will also be open and snacks and beverages will be available to all. The beer tent is open to everyone. And for those who won't be going to Twickenham, the good news is that the big screen will be up in the tea-room, with TV sets also strategically placed in every other bar.

★ Next Saturday we make a little bit of rugby history, when we visit Cambridge for the first time since 1911. If last season's seven-try spectacular is anything to go by, when Micky Bell crowned a great Welsh rally with his match-winning try in the fifth minute of injury time, we could be in for a treat. Directions to the University's attractive Grange Road ground are given on a preceding page.

★ The following week, March 21st, we shall be playing at home. Sadly, it will not be against Bath, who are obliged to play a re-arranged league game. But now for the good news, for hot-foot from the Midlands come first division Nottingham, who will be making their first-ever visit to Old Deer Park. That tasty tit-bit kicks off at 12 noon, so that we can all retire to the clubhouse after the game to watch the Wales-Scotland international in Cardiff.

★ Many congratulations to the five winners in the 400 Club's February draw: Mrs. E. A. Williams (No. 207) £100, A. J. Gray (28) £50, M. Nicholas (128) £25, G. Jones (313) £10, Miss M. Pughe (335) £10.

HAVANT HEARTBRAKERS

Welsh with the wind, 6-3; Havant with the wind, 6-0. Those bleak statistics in a try-less game at Old Deer Park severely dented promotion hopes. Matt Dawson, revelling in his new role as place-kicker, drilled home his first two attempts to relieve early tension, but Havant's late drive, supported by Peter Russell's siege-gun line-kicking, won the day when the same player landed two penalties in the last five minutes. Havant were in ecstasy, but for the Welsh it was heart-breaking. The only consolation on a spring-like afternoon was the biggest league gate—around 2,000—since Richmond first brought league rugby to Old Deer Park in 1987.

WAYWARD WELSH JUST SURVIVE

The Welsh also made life needlessly hard for themselves on a bright and blustery day in Ealing. The home side stuck doggedly to their task, but seldom created any try-scoring threat, and when Lee Evans improved first-half tries by Andy Newcombe and Paul Futter to extend the lead to 15-3, anything other than a substantial win seemed unthinkable. The one shot in the Ealing armoury, however, was discipline,

and they punished Welsh waywardness with a late try that thoroughly unsettled the side's nerves. There wasn't enough time for the home team to gain the verdict, but with all other challengers winning their games, Welsh league hopes now hang by a thread.

ROLE REVERSAL AT ROEHAMPTON

There was a touch of role reversal in the morning game at Roehampton, where Rosslyn Park scored the tries and the Welsh kicked the goals. Although Park drew away in the last quarter for a comfortable victory, there was never a hint of the collapse which the Welsh suffered in the first game between the two clubs. The bonus for a much-changed Welsh XV was the sight of Lee Evans pegging back the first-division squad with five successful kicks from seven penalty attempts.

BEDFORD BLUES

A shock victory seemed on the cards for much of the first half at Bedford, particularly when Owen Robins burst down the right wing to score in the corner and tie the scores at 4-4. But the Welsh must have known it was not going to be their day, when two penalty attempts by Lee Evans, which would have put them ahead, struck the post. A try on the stroke of half-time was all that Bedford needed, and with their pack driving forward in the second period, the Welsh backs were consigned to a defensive role. Though the Welsh tackled bravely and finished strongly, Bedford cut through for three more tries and were well worth their win.

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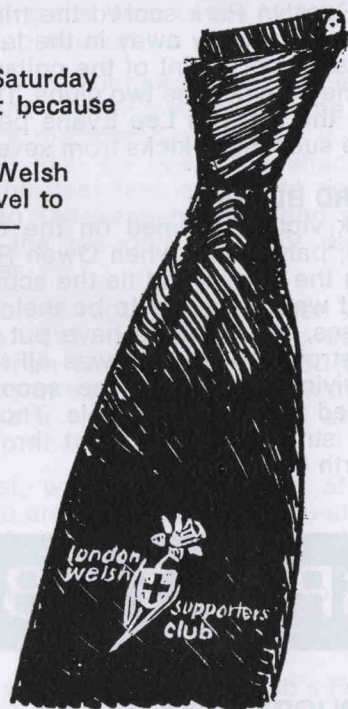
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FIRST XV FIXTURES 1991 - 92

Sept. 7	A	Bridgend	12-55	Jan. 18	A	Glamorgan Wanderers	11-31
Sept. 28	H	Metropolitan Police	23- 0	Jan. 19	H	Hendon (MC)	26- 3
Oct. 5	H	South Wales Police	17-10	Jan. 25	H	Weston-super-Mare*	36-19
Oct. 12	A	Northampton	0-34	Feb. 1	A	Harlequins	7-55
Oct. 19	H	Llanelli	20-35	Feb. 2	A	Old Gaytonians (MC)	7-13
Oct. 26	H	Saracens	25-21	Feb. 8	H	Havant*	6- 9
Nov. 3	H	Newport	16-20	Feb. 15	A	Rosslyn Park	15-28
Nov. 9	A	Rosslyn Park	7-50	Feb. 22	A	Bedford	4-27
Nov. 16	A	Sidcup*	49- 6	Feb. 29	A	Ealing*	15-12
Nov. 23	H	Sudbury*	34-15	Mar. 7	H	Cardiff	
Nov. 30	H	Blackheath	3-23	Mar. 14	A	Cambridge Univ.	
Dec. 1	H	Meadhurst (MC)	65- 0	Mar. 21	H	Nottingham	
Dec. 7	A	North Walsham*	21- 3	Mar. 28	H	Maidstone*	
Dec. 21	A	Basingstoke	7- 9	Apr. 4	H	Glamorgan Wanderers	
Dec. 26	A	Llanelli	13-46	Apr. 11	A	Southend*	
Jan. 4	H	Camborne*	38-15	Apr. 18	A	Coventry	
Jan. 11	A	High Wycombe*	14-23	Apr. 20	A	Newport	
				Apr. 25	H	Metropolitan Police*	

* Courage League Fixture

Down To The Wire

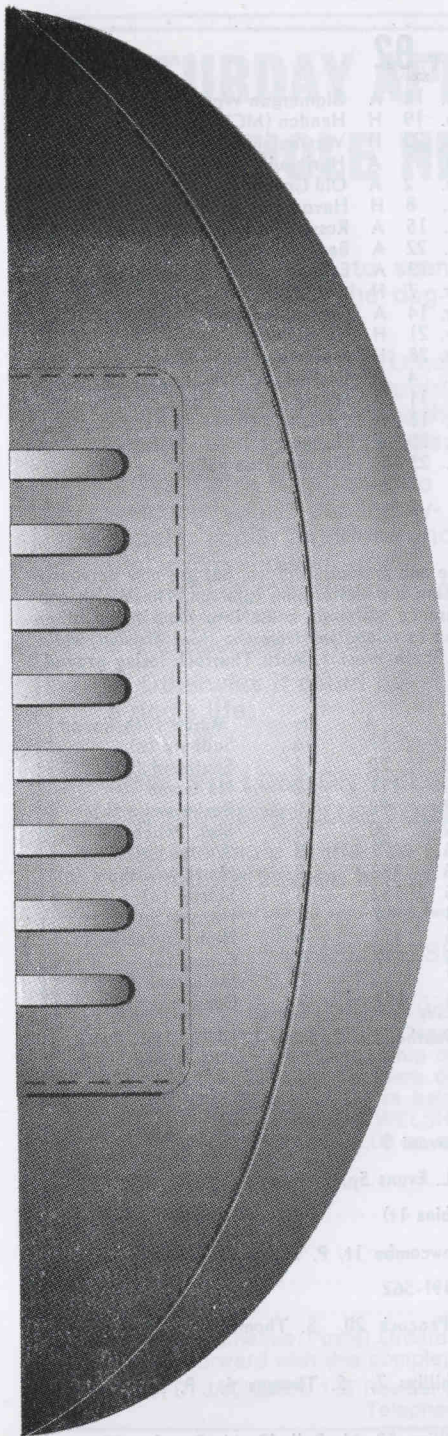
The Hampshire clubs are still leading the race for the one promotion place, but are now nervously looking over their shoulders at Sudbury, who are making a barnstorming late run. The Welsh can still reach 18 points, but their superior points difference will only come into play if the other challengers slip. Meanwhile, Lydney now seem doomed to relegation from the third division, while Berry Hill are strongly placed to win promotion from South-West 1. With Thurrock losing ground, it's all to play for in London 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	March 14th Round
Basingstoke	9	8	0	1	153	57	16	Sudbury (a)
Havant	8	7	0	1	178	70	14	Southend (a)
LONDON WELSH	9	6	0	3	220	111	12	No Game
Sudbury	7	5	0	2	157	90	10	Basingstoke (h)
High Wycombe	8	5	0	3	112	90	10	Met. Police (a)
North Walsham	7	4	0	3	96	71	8	Weston (h)
Weston-super-Mare	9	4	0	5	136	153	8	North Walsham (a)
Camborne	8	4	0	4	115	152	8	Sidcup (a)
Southend	7	2	0	5	74	97	4	Havant (h)
Met. Police	7	2	0	5	96	111	4	High Wycombe (h)
Maidstone	8	2	0	6	68	117	4	Ealing (h)
Ealing	8	1	0	7	67	192	2	Maidstone (a)
Sidcup	7	1	0	6	54	188	2	Camborne (h)

Re-arranged Games: Maidstone v North Walsham, Southend v Sudbury (Today), Met. Police v Sidcup (March 21st)

For The Record

Feb. 8th:	London Welsh 6 (M. Dawson 2p), Havant 9
Feb. 15th:	Rosslyn Park 28, London Welsh 15 (L. Evans 5p)
Feb. 22nd:	Bedford 27, London Welsh 4 (O. Robins 1t)
Feb. 29th:	Ealing 12, London Welsh 15 (A. Newcombe 1t, P. Futter 1t, L. Evans 2c, 1p)
Team Record:	Played 26, Won 11, Lost 15, Points 491-562
Most Games:	D. Harries 21, J. Davies 20, G. Peacock 20, S. Thomas 19, M. Bell 18, L. Thomas 18, R. Nicholas 17
Most Tries:	M. Bell 10, M. Douglas 7, R. Phillips 7, S. Thomas 6, P. Jorgensen 5, O. Robins 5
Most Points:	L. Evans 61, G. Peacock 59, R. Phillips 52, M. Bell 40, M. Douglas 28



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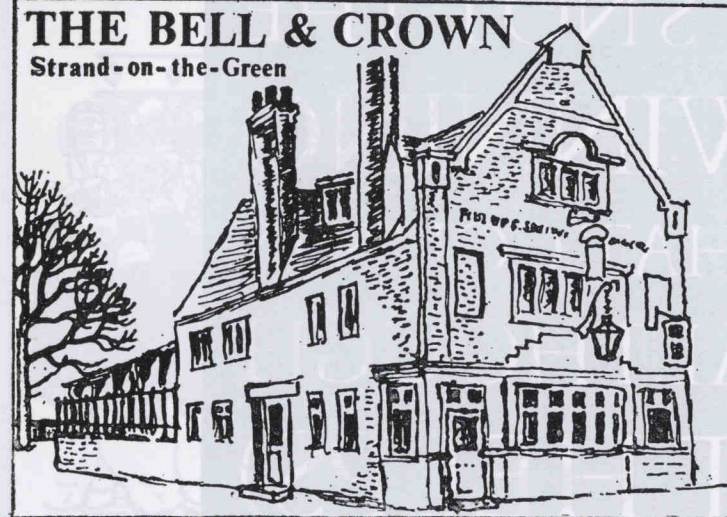


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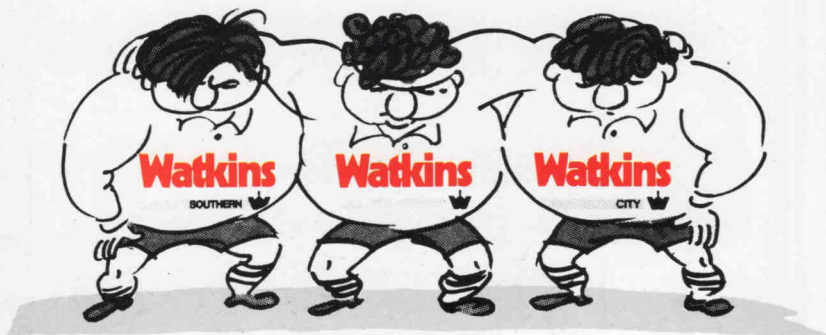


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