

# BATH FOOTBALL CLUB

Rugby Football Union



## THE MARPLES RUGBY CHALLENGE



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# Bath v Wasps

Sunday 4 November 1990

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## THE MARPLES RUGBY CHALLENGE

**Bath**

Sunday 4 November 1990. Kick-off 3pm.

**Wasps**

16 <b>WEBB</b>	FULL BACK	<b>PILGRIM</b> 15
15 <b>BLACKETT</b>	RIGHT WING	<b>SMITH</b> 14
14 <b>GUSCOTT</b>	RIGHT CENTRE	<b>CHILDS</b> 13
12 <b>BAMSEY</b>	LEFT CENTRE	<b>LOWZOWSKI</b> 12
11 <b>SWIFT</b>	LEFT WING	<b>WILLIAMS</b> 11
10 <b>BARNES</b>	OUTSIDE HALF	<b>ANDREW</b> 10
9 <b>HILL</b>	SCRUM HALF	<b>MASON</b> 9
1 <b>KIPLING</b>	FORWARDS	<b>RENDALL</b> 1
2 <b>DEANE</b>		<b>SIMMONS</b> 2
3 <b>LEE</b>		<b>DUNSTON</b> 3
4 <b>HAAG</b>		<b>PINNEGAR</b> 4
5 <b>CRONIN</b>		<b>KINSEY</b> 5
6 <b>MASLIN</b>		<b>ROSE</b> 6
7 <b>ROBINSON</b>		<b>WHITE</b> 7
8 <b>HALL</b>		<b>HARRIS</b> 8
17 <b>To be named</b>	REPLACEMENTS	<b>DAVIES</b> 16
18 <b>To be named</b>		<b>WRIGHT</b> 17

REFEREE: L. J. PEARD (South Wales)

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Articles of clothing left on West Stand seats before the game are liable to be removed by stewards.



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## Bath v Wasps

It may be a surprise to some rugby followers, but despite the sometimes titanic struggles of Bath versus Wasps encounters of recent years, this fixture happens to be one of our more recent on the Rec. Actually, Wasps are really a post-war fixture. But what a fixture!

So why did we not play this fine London clubside before? Well, therein lies only conjecture. Actually, among our original London games were the London Welsh whom we were engaging as far back as the 1890's. But sides from the capital remained a rarity, rather than the norm, until the 1950's. Even then Bath were consolidating their links with Wales rather than looking eastwards towards dear ol' London town. And how our London friends envied that huge Welsh content in our fixture list, a policy which Bath secretaries had carefully nurtured since the 1900's, a policy which was to earn us such rich experience in the cauldron of South Wales rugby.

Why, 'one good Welsh game is worth several from the capital', is what many an observer was heard to say. And for some reasons or so they may well have been right. Yet quite suddenly, London's reputation has made a majestic leap forward. Perhaps the rugby world first noticed this in unison three seasons back when London Counties dented the reputation of the mighty Australians at Twickenham in the Wallabies' opening match. But again, this is conjecture only. What is near certain is that the Wasps have been the inspiration of this dramatic turn-around.

The Wasps, so we are led to believe, sat down one evening in the early Eighties and said something like this: 'it has got to stop; it simply has to stop'. And the cause of their concern? ... the domination of provincial clubs; the seeming lack of punch from the capital. Indeed, their cupboards (London sides in general) were bare of silverware for seasons long. Wasps officials – doubtless former England lock and leader of men Peter Yarranton among them – decided that something had to be done.

Thus come the mid-eighties and Wasps reached the cup final two years on the trot (though they lost to our boys on both outings); and then in 1988 the 'Quins got the jackpot against Bristol. As for last season the men from the Wasps clinched the Courage league championship.

Ah! the 'Quins ... just one of four clubs in Division One of the Courage league who hail from London. Now that's not a bad representation. It is said sometimes that the London boys regret the lack of direct linkage in their club titles, casting mindful eyes towards those clubs whose names embody the very townships they represent. Yes, there is truth in this. And yet, who could argue with their own lineage. In the titles of Harlequins there is history, in Rosslyn Park their is cavalier charm, in Saracens and Wasps there is ... well, there is charisma.

**'So our chums from London, welcome to the West Country. Our two clubs have shared mighty tussles in recent years. And we like you the more for it. After all, you play it the way we tend to play it and that's alright by us.'**

Indeed, as Wasps have extended their arm over London as a whole, it is worth just a mention that we at Bath have openly established ourselves as a West Country clubside, proud of our city, and proud too that our men hail from not only our immediate area but also from a region extending from the Wiltshire Downs and into deepest Cornwall.

On this very day in Bath there is a poignant meaning to our encounter. Last season both Wasps and Bath experienced the sadness that comes with one player lost and another seriously injured. The thoughts thereafter which our players carry on to the Rec this afternoon are those deepest thoughts which the toughest of men know as keenly as the rest of us. Well, those same players, young Stephen Roberts and of course the families concerned, will be among friends today.

That indeed is Rugby's greatest gift ... its friendship. Have a great game lads!

Harry W. Barstow

**This programme has been printed in aid of the Raphael Tsagane Memorial Fund and the Stephen Roberts Trust Fund.**

### Stephen Roberts

Stephen Roberts aged 18 from Lansdown, Bath was left virtually paralysed from the neck down while playing for Bath Rugby Club's Colts team last April. A former pupil at King Edward's School, Bath, Stephen has been described as "a very brave lad and coping very well with his injury". His mother Mrs Ann Roberts said he was making good progress and was talking about taking his A Levels next year.

Everybody concerned with the production of this programme, as well as Wasps and Bath Rugby Clubs wish Stephen Roberts all the very best.

### Raph Tsagane

Raph was educated at Wolverston Hall in Suffolk where he will be remembered as an all-round athlete, excelling at fencing, on the running track and the rugby field. He joined our Club in 1985 as a Colt and his undoubted talent as a rugby player developed over the next three seasons. He was an England Colts Trialist in 1989, but further progress was hampered by injury.

At senior level he first came to prominence as an electrifying sevens player, and this season established himself in the senior squad from the outset. He competed strongly for a place on the wing against established international players and more recently will be remembered for a hat trick of tries against London Scottish.

Raph will remain long in the memory of his friends and team mates for his commitment to our game.