

BATH FOOTBALL CLUB

(Rugby Football Union)



Bath F.C. Sponsored by **SWEET**

BATH v. EBBW VALE

WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1991

Price 60p

Programme No.

1



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BATH v. EBBW VALE

WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1991

BATH

Colours: Blue, White & Black

Full Back 16 AUDLEY LUMSDEN

Right Wing 15 TONY SWIFT*
Right Centre 14 JON BAMSEY
Left Centre 12 IESTYN LEWIS
Left Wing 11 JIM FALLON

Outside Half 10 STUART BARNES* (Captain)
Scrum Half 9 IAN SANDERS

Forwards 1 GARETH CHILCOTT*
2 JIMMY DEANE
3 VICTOR UBOGU
4 MARTIN HAAG
5 DAMIAN CRONIN*
6 GARETH ADAMS
7 JOHN HALL*
8 DAVID EDGERTON*

Replacements 17 CRAIG DALBY
18 NICK MASLEN

Referee: Brian Procter (Oxfordshire)

EBBW VALE

Colours: Red, Green, White

Full Back 15 MIKE GROOM

Right Wing 14 IAN JEFFERIES (Captain)
Right Centre 13 DES PARRY
Left Centre 12 ANDREW JEWITT
Left Wing 11 MARK JEFFERIES

Outside Half 10 NIGEL ENGLISH
Scrum Half 9 JOHN WILLIAMS

Forwards 1 ANDREW HUNTER
2 COLIN PRICE
3 ALLAN PHILLIPS
4 TONY PATEY
5 MIKE BOYCOTT
6 JEFF LAPHAM
7 MARK SPILLER
8 PHIL EASBY

Replacements 17 WAYNE MORGAN
18 ADRIAN GRIFFITHS

Kick-off 7.15 pm

Today's GILBERT MATCH BALL sponsored by BATH F.C.

*Internationals

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BATH v. EBBW VALE

We are most pleased this evening to welcome our friends from Ebbw Vale to the Rec. But before we relate some history of this fine club, just a few words on last Saturday's encounter with Barnstaple.

Well, forgetting our visitor's somewhat lowly position, how nice of them to travel up from North Devon and give us a game. Gosh . . . how we needed that game! Forget the outcome, it was worth any number of training sessions. So! we owe no small debt to friendly Barnstaple and . . . we hope that they too benefited from the encounter.

Oh, thanks for so many followers turning out for the occasion; not forgetting your warm appreciation shown to Barnstaple throughout. Yes . . . Bath have a super squad of players, and yes . . . we have a grand bunch of followers too.

Now, some details of our guests tonight: Vale were formed officially in 1879. We say officially, because in line with many clubs there is little doubt that rugby was being played (and a lot of it) in the Vale area some time prior to the club's actual formation.

Vale were then to enjoy many years (up to the Thirties in fact) in the Monmouthshire league. (We thought the idea of leagues were something new, did we?). But the lift-off in Vale fortunes really came with the establishing of its post-war steel industry. It thrived, so did Ebbw Vale on the rugby field. Indeed, the late Forties and Fifties saw Vale establish one of the strongest fixture lists in Wales.

Club captain this season is Nigel Meek (hooker), while club colours bear a striking similarity to Leicester, namely red, white and green.

Vale are in a planned stage of rebuilding, and they have an impressive pedigree to provide inspiration. Great names of rugby can be found at Ebbw Vale, names such as that giant of props . . . the great Denzil Williams, who apart from thirty-six caps for Wales was of course a mighty British Lion. Then in the early Seventies we saw that superb centre by the name of Arthur Lewis. Not only a brilliant runner, he was in addition captain of Wales.

And talking of centres, the Vale's splendid ground at Eugene Cross Park was the venue five seasons back of another small piece of rugby history. It was a floodlit game, whereby a promising young Bath player was set to show his potential with a truly breathtaking try before an admiring Vale audience. His name? . . . well, his name was Jeremy Guscott.

Oh, . . . the Bath scrum-half that evening was Steve Lewis, Oxford Blue and once a serious contender for full England honours, and whose club rugby commenced in Vale colours. An Anglo-Welsh link of the best kind to be sure. And Vale may be equally sure that Bath's thinking on the continuation of Anglo-Welsh rugby is totally positive. It is a belief that we cannot emphasise too strongly.

Finally, we wish our Boys and Ebbw Vale a great contest on the park tonight.

Harry W. Barstow