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JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL CUP WINNERS 1983/84, 1984/85 and 1985/86

BATH v. NOTTINGHAM

FRIDAY, 6th MARCH, 1987

480



NOTTINGHAM

Colours: White

Full Back 15 RICHARD BYRON

Right Wing 14 ROBERT NELSON-WILLIAMS
Right Centre 13 MARTIN NORTHARD
Left Centre 12 GARY HARTLEY
Left Wing 11 CLIFTON JONES

Outside Half 10 SIMON HODGKINSON
Scrum Half 9 RICHARD MOON

Forwards 1 MARTIN FREER
2 ROGER TAYLOR
3 JOHN WARD
4 CHRIS GRAY
5 NEIL MARTELL* (Captain)
8 PETER COOK
7 PETER THORNLEY
6 GREG KORAL

Replacements 16 JOHN COLLINSON
17 PAUL MORGAN

Referee: N. Cousins (London Society)

BATH

Colours: Blue, White & Black

Full Back 16 PHIL CUE

Right Wing 15 TONY SWIFT*
Right Centre 14 JOHN PALMER* (Captain)
Left Centre 12 JEREMY GUSCOTT
Left Wing 11 CHRIS MARTIN*

Outside Half 10 STUART BARNES*
Scrum Half 9 STEVE KNIGHT

Forwards 1 CHRIS LILLEY
2 JIMMY DEANE
3 RICHARD LEE
4 NIGEL REDMAN*
5 DAMIAN CRONIN
6 ANDY ROBINSON
7 NICK MASLEN
8 PAUL SIMPSON*

Replacements 17 PETER BLACKETT
18 COLIN BEVAN

*Internationals

Kick-off 7.15 p.m.



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BATH v. NOTTINGHAM

A visit from Nottingham is surely the best curtain-raiser of all before the clash at the Arms Park tomorrow. Yet it seems almost incredulous that until a mere handful of years ago the City of Nottingham was famed far more for its association football links than for those of its rugby fraternity. Yes, the association game thrives still in those same parts, but so too does the game of rugby. We therefore express our admiration to those followers, players and officials of the Nottingham Club for this superb achievement.

In addition, this evening's encounter is the first 'Club' game between ourselves and Nottingham, though it must be said that three seasons back we did terrific battle with them in the quarter-final of the John Player Special Cup. Now on the matter of cup football, it is interesting to note that our Midland guests are no longer contesting the trophy at this stage of the competition, though one of these fine days they will surely carry it back to Nottingham. Moreover, the fact remains that the Midlanders are currently one of the best sides in England, and a side running hard and strong in the Merit Table A group.

Speaking of Cups, what a draw we've got at Orrell. 'Great' is the reaction of nearly all of us. First, it will be a special day out. Second, did we not land ourselves with a hiding-to-nothing when engaging Moseley. All credit to Moseley for their outstanding efforts. But really . . . Bath were on a stickler of a surface, but more importantly, we were involved in that sort of game in which you have to win by some thirty points or you have apparently not deserved to win at all. (It was a 'no win' game in fact; but we got the victory and we have got Orrell.) If anything, the Northerners will be favourites and not us, and Richard Hill and our Boys will thrive in that situation. Now it is the Lancastrians who have got to produce the goods.

Finally, back to Nottingham once again. Nice to see you down here in the West Country, where we have been following your successes with much interest. Nor do we forget the role of England B men, Chris Oti and Simon Hughes in that recent triumph over the French on the Rec. They wore the white shirt proudly.

Harry W. Barstow

We are most grateful to **John Smith's**, sponsors of the John Smith's Merit Tables, for their support in sponsoring tonight's game and also the Merit Tables themselves. We trust that they and their guests will have an enjoyable evening.

Our thanks also to John Smith's for supplying a bottle of Scotch Whisky for the lucky programme prize and also for sponsoring tonight's match ball.

Frank Cottle has arranged supporters' coaches for the John Player Special Cup semi-final at Orrell, on Saturday March 28th. They will leave Pulteney Street at 9.30 a.m. and the cost is £6.00 per head. Please contact him at the Lansdown Brokerage, Monmouth Place, Bath (Telephone 311359) or at the Club Shop tonight.

As those of you who travelled to Orrell last season will know, the seating capacity is very limited and our allocation of seats will mean that the only ones available will be allocated as far as possible to older or infirm supporters. Orrell are not issuing Ground tickets, but they assure us that there will be sufficient room for everyone in the ground. Prices are the same as here and the kick-off will be at 3.00 p.m. Your vocal support will be very much appreciated by the team!

A change in venue means that the United game originally scheduled to be played here tomorrow will now be at Abercarn this evening. As there are no games at home tomorrow the Clubhouse will not be open in the afternoon.

The Quarter-Final of the Somerset Youth Cup (Bath v. Keynsham) has been postponed and will not now be played here next Sunday, March 8th. A new date will be announced later.

Cover photo by courtesy of Chris Rigby

Clive Howard