

Wheatley's day to remember

By RON GRIMSHAW

FOUR tries by nimble footed Malcolm Swain (Wales B), a hat-trick by David MacKay (England trialist) and others by England's most-capped number eight Andy Ripley were just some of the highlights as president Geoff Windsor-Lewis' XV beat Wheatley 48-14 in a match to celebrate the opening of their new clubhouse at Holton yesterday.

The only disappointment was that television personality and former England scrum half Nigel Starmer-Smith, who later performed the official opening ceremony, did not take his chance of getting on the scoresheet.

He was put clearly away by Tony Hooper, cutting in from the wing, midway through the second half but, heading in to a strong wind simply hadn't the steam to make the try line.

He made a delightful little speech before unveiling a plaque to mark the official opening of the clubhouse later after being introduced by Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, who said the opening of the clubhouse was the fulfilment of their wildest

dreams.

It spoke volumes for club rugby, he said, that so many leading players accepted the invitation to play against Wheatley.

The President's team started with a keen wind at their backs but scrummaged so loosely at the start that Wheatley looked the better side and might have opened the scoring when Adrian Manger fielded an attempted clearance kick and his dropped goal attempt just faded away.

The scratch XV settled down and tightened up taking a 16 points lead with a try by Swain, who deftly swept past a midfield defender to go in under the posts; Seretse Williams made an opening to put over MacKay, then Andy Ripley pulled down a high ball and charged through for the line. Ray Tapper kicked two conversions, the first with a drop kick.

Wheatley hit back with a fine break by Jerry Axford supported by Julian Hanks, who went in under the posts but the try was not converted. Before the break Williams produced a touch of magic in a swerving midfield burst which brought him a try under the posts.

Williams set up and con-

verted a try by MacKay early in the second half, with a speedy break from his own 22, but Wheatley replied with a fine opportunist try from flanker Richard White.

Between a hat-trick of tries by Swain who has an unquestioned touch of class and another by MacKay, Axford pulled one back, and also landed the conversion for Wheatley. Swain also converted one of the four tries, but "Starmer" missed a conversion from in front of the posts.

In the closing minutes Swain broke clear again and found Peter Carroll, former Oxford University captain in support, to score the final try.

Wheatley: A Manger; S Bishop, P Turner, P Vaughan, R Gurney; I Axford, G Rotherforth; D Fuller, I Surman, H Wye-Roberts, J Hanks, T Cozier, R White, C Stokes, C Crawford (capt).

President's XV: P Carroll (Oxford University and Harlequins); A Hooper (Henley and Oxfordshire), M Swain (Moseley and Wales B), S Williams (Oxford Old Boys and Oxfordshire), D McKay (Rosslyn Park); R Tapper (Oxford and Oxfordshire), N Starmer-Smith (Harlequins and England); G Mackenzie (Oxford Marathons and Oxfordshire), J Elliott (Nottingham and Barbarians), P Sapsford (London New Zealand and New Zealand B), K Andrews (Leicester and Barbarians) capt, C Jones (Oxford Old Boys and Oxfordshire), A Hollins (Bedford and Eastern Counties), M Haines (Oxford Old Boys), A Ripley (Rosslyn Park and England).

Referee: D Brown (Oxfordshire Society).



Club president Geoff Windsor-Lewis (left) and former England scrum half Nigel Starmer-Smith stand proudly beneath the plaque which marked the opening of Wheatley FC's new clubhouse yesterday

● Picture: ROB COUSINS

WHEATLEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Colours

Purple - White Band - Black Shorts and Socks

Grounds

WHEATLEY PLAYING FIELDS, HOLTON.

THE LOWER SCHOOL, WHEATLEY.

HEADQUARTERS — THE CLUBHOUSE, HOLTON

President

G. WINDSOR-LEWIS

Chairman

B. Eeles

Vice-Chairman

R. P. Surman

Hon. Secretary

D. Rowan,
121 Old Road,
Wheatley 2750

Hon. Treasurer

G. R. Evans,
The Primary School,
Wheatley.

Hon. Fixture Secretary

A. McKay,
41 Church Road,
Wheatley 2955

Social Secretary

T. Cozier,
32 Farm Close,
Wheatley 4350

Membership Secretary

J. Wigmore,
28 Cowley Road,
Littlemore,
Oxford 778413

Bar Manager

D. Didcock

Minutes Secretary

D. Thomas

Match Secretary

R. P. Thorpe

Press Officer

A. Manger

Captain

C. Crawford

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CLUBHOUSE

24th September 1978.



WHEATLEY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Lucky Programme

Price 25p

Number

Why not become a Vice President of the Club for a minimum of £2.00, or a Non-Playing Member for £1.00? Look for the membership table in the Clubhouse, and come and support us.

To those who are already members, we would like to thank you for your loyal support to the Club.

J. WIGMORE
Membership Secretary

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members, friends and associates who have worked so hard and given up so much of their time towards enabling us to obtain our own Clubhouse. Without their enthusiastic endeavours we would never have made it!

B.L.W. EELES
Chairman

In the beginning

The origins of the Club lie somewhere between my missing cartlidges and Wheatley Youth Centre of ten years ago. The chief sport of the young men of the village was fighting, getting sloshed and falling down at the Bridge Hotel. Thanks to Rugby we now do much the same kind of thing but we have the R.F.U. Laws to tell us the time, place, method and opposition.

No seriously though folks after the army youth team had come over and boxed a few ears, and the revived wrestling club had taught them to maim, crush and trample people, they were ready for the ultimate challenge – Rugby Football.

Some unbelievably coarse early games were played against Bicester Youth Centre. The team was very mixed ranging from well into his prime Tosh Harris to young Angus Mackay – size 12 boots and all knees and elbows. Our only skill lay in tackling which the lads did with wild abandon. They found it most enervating to be able to knock someone down without being charged with greivous bodily harm or booted off the field.

We were careful to explain the unwritten laws of the game and the importance of the right sporting attitude. I shall not forget the expression of terror on Gordon Marlow's face as he pressed himself into the woodwork of the West Stand Bar to avoid a sea of beer and glasses. "You said this game was played by gentlemen," he said reprovingly. It was then he realised why Ian Thompson and I were standing under an umbrella with buttoned up plastic macs.

Our strip did not arrive for two months and we played in the unwashed shirts of Thames Valley Police 'borrowed' by P..... H..... One week he could not get it. Ten of us stood outside the Sandpiper and found Micky sliding down the wall. We took him

and his friend, kidnapped Liggy and went to Gosford. There we borrowed their new shirts and first team flankers before winning 17-0. Micky's friend was a total stranger and has not been seen since.

We have not progressed that far really. We try to put out 4 sides now but are often short of players. We sometimes play without shirts if Terry takes them to Bournemouth. We still want to cater for teenagers and even minis if enough men would commit themselves every Sunday. As we begin our eighth official season I hope we still have what we began with. Lots of enthusiasm and a family feeling which allows no internal friction.

Today of course we open our Clubhouse - a tremendous step for a young club. It is a piece of genuine good fortune that we have our own base so early in our history. We shall however be judged not on mere possession but to what use we put our advantage.

This is just the end of chapter one. There are many years ahead of exciting games and enjoyable social events. Hundreds of young men wait to be introduced to the game and I am confident that we shall flourish. All this will however be a long and wasted journey if we do not play in the spirit intended and conduct ourselves off the field in the same manner.

Finally may I pay public tribute to Dick Manger who was there before the club. To Glen Evans and Dick Thorpe who have never wavered from their allegiance. To Geoff Windsor-Lewis who was asked to carry the banner and who has frequently waved it wildly when called upon to do so.

D. ROWAN
Hon. Secretary

Message from The President

I would like to welcome everyone on this special occasion to open our Clubhouse.

For some years it has always been the hope of the Committee that one day the Club would have a settled home in which hospitality and friendship could be reciprocated to all the Clubs that have been so generous to us.

I am sure that as the season gathers momentum, this Clubhouse will prove of great benefit to our visitors and members alike. We still, of course owe a considerable amount of money but optimism abounds and providing the hard work continues, the investment will be worthwhile.

Finally I would like to thank all the guest players who have accepted my invitation to play this afternoon - we are indebted to them and I hope that they, like everyone else will thoroughly enjoy our opening celebration.

G. WINDSOR-LEWIS
President

WHEATLEY 1ST XV

15. A. MANGER
14. S. BISHOP
13. P. TURNER
12. P. VAUGHAN
11. R. GURNEY
10. J. AXFORD
9. G. ROTHERFORTH
1. D. FULLER
2. P. SURMAN
3. H. WYER—ROBERTS
4. J. HANKS
5. T. COZIER
6. D. HANNAH
7. C. STOKES
8. C. CRAWFORD (Captain)

Reserves

- A. MILDREN
R. WHITE
R. THORPE
S. LAVENDER
B. SOAMES

FULL BACKS

THREE—QUARTERS

RIGHT WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

LEFT WING

HALF BACKS

STAND—OFF

SCRUM—HALF

FORWARDS

PROP

HOOKER

PROP

LOCK

LOCK

FLANKER

FLANKER

No 8

PRESIDENT'S XV

15. P. R. CARROLL — Harlequins, Oxford University
14. R. J. ARNEIL — Northampton, Scotland
13. P. S. PREECE — Coventry, England
12. S. WILLIAMS — Oxford Old Boys, Oxfordshire
11. D. J. MACKAY — Rosslyn Park, England Trials
10. R. P. TAPPER — Oxford, Oxfordshire
9. N. C. STARMER—SMITH — Harlequins, England
1. G. MACKENZIE — Oxford Marathons, Oxfordshire
2. J. J. ELLIOTT — Nottingham, Barbarians
3. P. SAPSFORD — London New Zealand, New Zealand
4. K. ANDREWS — Leicester, Barbarians
5. C. JONES — Oxford Old Boys, Oxfordshire
6. A. HOLLINS — Bedford, Eastern Counties
7. M. C. HAINES — Oxford Old Boys
8. A. G. RIPLEY — Rosslyn Park, England

KICK-OFF 3.30 p.m.

CLUB XV	V	FOUNDER MEMBERS XV
15. C. DREWITT		15. D. GLEN
14. A. MILDREN		14. R. COOMBES
13. M. BILLCLIFF		13. G. MARLOW
12. S. LAVENDER		12. A. SPENCE
11. E. BELL		11. M. BEVERLEY
10. J. WIGMORE		10. D. SMITH
9. A. QUARTERMAIN		9. B. WARD
1. R. THORPE		1. S. EELEY
2. T. PERKIN		2. R. TYRELL
3. P. J. DAVIS (Captain)		3. P. CABBAN
4. R. SURMAN		4. E. TURNER
5. B. SOAMES		5. R. BARRATT
6. A. MACKAY		6. C. KOLOSOWSKI
7. M. DRISCOLL		7. R. HIXON
8. R. WHITE		8. S. NEWMAN

Reserves

R. Whittaker, G. Short, A. Collins

KICK-OFF 2.00 p.m.

JUNIOR RUGBY – APPROXIMATELY 10.00a.m.

WHEATLEY COLTS V ABINGDON COLTS

1. Andy Quainton	9. Julian Edwards
2. Roger Robinson	10. Phillip Manger
3. Tim Quainton	11. Richard Barratt
4. Ray Mandle	12. Ian Gray
5. Gary Davis	13. Stephen Shorter
6. Stephen Cozier	14. Derek Wise
7. Roland Yeates	15. Ian Pickford
8. Russell Yeates	Reserve: Mark Rowland

WHEATLEY JUNIOR COLTS V ABINGDON JUNIOR COLTS

Phipps	Newitt
Edwards	Bell
Hewitt	Jones
Horwood	Tipping
Hicks	Hobbs
Green	Thompson
Jeffrey	Thatcher
Funge	Truss
Rowland	Kent