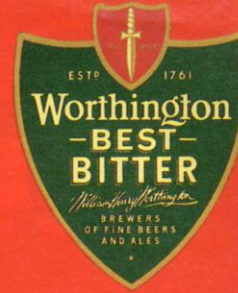




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Welcome
to
Kingsholm



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GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

V

CHELTENHAM

TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER, 1993

KICK OFF 7.00 p.m.



Official Programme
£1.00

Peter Arnold

OLD BOYS REUNION?

There can seldom have been an occasion, in recent years anyway, when Cheltenham have arrived at Kingsholm with such high hopes of beating the Old Enemy. Gloucester welcome their neighbours to a game sandwiched between two really tough League assignments: against the formidable Wasps last Saturday, and the long-distance trek to Newcastle Gosforth, who beat them in the Cup last season, and at that time, were claiming to have the best defence in the country.

That, of course, means that most, if not all, of the first choice players are going to have to be rested. Furthermore, the second string has already lost to the other next door neighbour down at Lydney.

That is, of course, the blackest picture. In spite of the story so far, there isn't any doubt about the strength in depth at Kingsholm these days, whatever you may hear from the usual Clubhouse misery-guts or two. And we did put 34 points on Blackheath while a squad of 22 players were enjoying the flesh pots of Venice.

For their part, Cheltenham arrive with an encouraging start behind them, and the stiffening of a solid core of old Kingsholm hands, notably their inspirational Captain, drop-goal expert, Malcolm Preedy. (Drop goals? Never mind, Chelt. It's an in joke).

They also have some distinctly useful looking new faces around, so we may well find that we're in for a good-'un this evening.

Whatever happens, Kingsholm wouldn't be Kingsholm without the annual visit from the lads from the Prince of Wales Stadium. There is a perfectly arguable school of thought which says that, in these days of crowded and daunting fixture lists, Gloucester shouldn't be playing sides as far below them in League rankings as Cheltenham. Personally, I don't think the

argument stands up.

To start with, such games do provide a showcase for aspiring young talent. With Barrie Corless' avowed intention to put emphasis on Youth rugby and to develop the U21 and Colts structure, plus the newly available pitch at Oxtalls, we should be seeing a larger pool of players to work with. And there's a point of principle too.

It's to the eventual interest of Gloucester RFC to encourage such clubs as Cheltenham, Stroud and Lydney — and before anyone starts muttering about poaching players just as they are becoming useful, I'm not thinking about using such respected opponents as breeding grounds for Kingsholm talent. In my view, the higher the *general* standard of rugby in the area, the more successful local teams are going to be. If you want proof of that, look at the successes of sides such as Civil Service and Tredworth in the Provincial Cup lately.

The more successful our sides become, the more players are attracted to them. And the more players, the more strength. And the more success. And so on.

The best way such clubs as Gloucester and Bristol can help this progress is to give neighbouring clubs a taste of rugby at the highest level, using the best facilities available.

But I shouldn't really be waxing so philosophical this evening. The Cheltenham game is a cheerful occasion, a match against friendly neighbours with no troubles about League points. And I've a feeling we're going to be grateful for such relaxed events before this season is out.

We hope Cheltenham have a thoroughly enjoyable visit. And thanks to Kingsholm Former Pupils as have done us the honour of returning this evening. It should be fun.

Cont. on page 12



THE
SOCIETY
THAT
TRIES
HARDER



WISHES GLOUCESTER R.F.C ALL THE
BEST FOR THE 1992/1993 SEASON
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM

Peter Arnold cont.

NICE ONE COACH

Congratulations to Keith Richardson on his appointment as Coach to the England Emerging Players this season. His statement that he received the appointment without really trying, but was very happy when it arrived, is entirely typical, and shows that Someone Up There knows a good coach when they see one.

We shouldn't be too surprised, actually. Keith did take the South and South West to their first Divisional Championship last season, and by all accounts, impressed during his stint as Assistant Coach on the England 'A' tour to Canada over the summer. I hope it's the start of greater things for him. Couldn't happen to a nicer bloke.

I'm also glad to hear that the new duties shouldn't distract him from his labours at Kingsholm, because there will only be one or two Emerging England matches. It's worth pointing out, however, that one of them will be against the All Black tourists, right here at Kingsholm, on Tuesday, November 23rd, which makes Ar Keef an excellent choice for the job, knowing the scene, as it were. It would be nice to see some Gloucester representation in the home side. Not that I'm talking Old Boys Act, you understand . . .

AND NICE ONE MICK!

England Under 21 couldn't have a shrewder judge than our own Mickey Booth as part of the selection team. The position of Chairman of Selectors having been made redundant by the new Kingsholm regime, it's good to see that Mick's undoubted talent for the job, and propensity for saying exactly what he thinks, won't be going to waste.

It's also nice to see that you don't have to be a former International to get such a job. The best players don't always make the best selectors, or administrators of any sort, for that matter. Although we can all think of players who got England Caps that Mick Booth should have had.

His fellow selectors will certainly know he's around.

JIMMY COUGHLIN

Sorry to end this little selection of personality stories on a sad note, but this is the first chance I've had to comment on the passing of my old friend Jimmy Coughlin, who died during the close season.

Jim, of course, was Kingsholm's naturalised Irishman. He was also the after-match guardian

of the door at the rear of the Complex, and although about half the size of Digger Morris, who did the same job at the front, he was just as difficult to get past if you didn't have the right ticket.

Mind you, it wasn't as though he was short of experience. For a period of years, it seemed that whenever and wherever there was a public event in Gloucester you find Jim on the door, inspecting invitations and tickets and denying gatecrashers with immense Hibernian charm.

Man of many parts, was Jim. A respected figure in local Catholic circles, he was also one of the City Mace Bearers for many years. And that's a job where you have to know what you're doing.

For a long time he was the City Council's man who went round, on his bicycle, looking for damaged pavements and holes in the road. In my own Council days, whenever I had a complaint from a constituent about such matters, I didn't go through the official channels, not did I bend the ear of the City Engineer. I found that a quiet word with Jim got the job done much faster and with less fuss.

Jimmy and I have one private joke. The only time that he shouted for anyone other than Gloucester was when London Irish were the visitors. I would inevitably make a comment in these pages that, at least, the Irish would have one supporter on the day, and usually say who it was. Jim loved that, and would go round showing everyone the appropriate page in the programme for days afterwards.

I shall certainly miss Jimmy Coughlin, as will a great many people, from territories far wider than Kingsholm. He was certainly an individual and a one-off, and we don't have too many of those in these degenerate times.

The sympathy of all of us here at Jim's beloved Kingsholm go out, most sincerely, to his family.

WELCOME BACK

Isn't it nice to see the good old Kingsholm Inn back on stream? Of course, you may well be one of those long-time regulars who don't recognise the name, having been used to 'nipping over for one in 'The Jockey' from time in moral, whatever the brewery concerned chose to enter on their balance sheets.

But what's in a name? Jockey or Kingsholm, the pub has been one of the favourite watering holes for adherents of Rugby Union Football for

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longer than anyone can remember. Is it older than the Ground? Perhaps Ed Martin would like to pursue the research, ask Phil Moss: he can probably tell you off the top of his head.

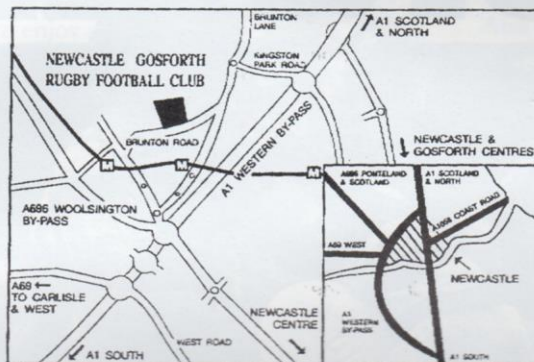
It's also good to see the place in the safe hands of that well-known and respected Spartan, Rob Gough, who we are told, intends to maintain and extend the pub's reputation as a rugby pub, complete with all the ties in the North Gloucestershire Combination.

Anyway, not wishing to deprive our own Social Club of any of the bar takings, (the beer will still probably be cheaper, after all) we wish Rob's new enterprise well. It will probably take some of the pressure off the scrum in the Clubhouse immediately after the match.

HOW TO GET THERE

The decision that distance precludes coaches being laid on for the away trip to Newcastle Gosforth on Saturday means that it's even more important that anyone making their own way there should know where he's going. We don't want any repetition of the alleged incident of a couple of seasons ago, when one car load of Gloucester supporters turned the wrong way on leaving Kingsholm and found themselves in Gosport, Hampshire.

It's even more important this season, because the location of the ground has changed over the last few years, since the amalgamation of the Gosforth and Newcastle clubs. I therefore present you with a handy map, as sent me direct from the ground. See below.



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Cumulative Match Score

0	5		
3	5		
6	5		
9	5		
12	5		
12	8		
15	8		
15	11		

GLoucester (Cherry/White)

T	G	Pts
	PPC	4

15. Jason Marchant

14. Jerry Perrins
13. Mark Bedney
12. Jonathan Moffatt
11. Chris Dee

F	DP	6
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10. Paul Beech
9. Julian Davis

1. Bob Phillips
2. Dave Kearsey
3. Tony Windo
4. Simon Devereux
5. Pete Miles
6. Sam Masters
7. Andy Stanley*
8. Mark Nicholls

6	H/T	5

Replacements
Bruce Fenley
Andy Martin
Adrian Knox

*(Capt.)
Referee: A. EVANS — London Scottish

CHELTHENHAM (Black/Red)

T	G	Pts
	P	3

15. Nick Marmont

1		5

14. John Davis
13. Mark Chapman
12. Paul Cooper
11. Peter Knowles

	P	3
--	---	---

10. Matthew Watts
9. Chris Preen

1. Malcolm Preedy*
2. Steve Ratcliffe
3. Richard Pascall
4. John Brain
5. Tim Click
6. John Wood
7. Dave Stout
8. Mike Steele

15	F/T	17

Replacements
Paul Sargison
Roy Brown
Ben Hyde
Simon Drummond
*(Capt.)

Peter Arnold cont.

... BUT COME ALONG ANYWAY

If you don't fancy the long trip North, then we have an attractive alternative. While the First XV are doing battle in their first away League game of the season, United are entertaining Moseley, back at the ranch. That's a fixture always worth supporting, and Andrew Stanley's lads could use your support.

After that, it's waiting for Leicester on September 25th. And you won't want to miss the Tigers in the League.

SEASON TICKETS

Talking about League games reminds me that it costs more to get into see League games than it does other matches this season. That means that our season tickets are an even better bargain than ever.

It was gratifying to note that there has been a positive stampede for such magic passports this season, encouraged no doubt by the decision not to increase prices this term. But don't let that put you off. Drop into the office, alongside the Clubhouse entrance, and I'm sure the Fair Geraldine will see you right.

KEY POSITION

Starting at your first Secondary School is a daunting prospect for any youngster. So for young Stephen Key to take on the onerous duties of Match Mascot this evening, having attended the Crypt School for just one week, is a bit above and beyond the call of duty.

Stephen, who is obviously 11 years old, is an old boy of Dinglewell School, as is Marcus Hannaford. Marcus went on to play for Old Cryptians, so perhaps young Steve is set to follow in his footsteps and become a scrum half. Although, knowing Terry Close's sense of humour, with a name like 'Key' he'll probably find himself trying out a lock forward.

He hasn't played rugby as yet, but has learned his ball-playing skills through Hucclecote's excellent youth soccer set-up. He's keen to have a go, though, and if he's got an ounce of talent, the Crypt will bring it out of him.

I should know. I'm an Old Cryptian myself.

Incidentally, Master Key happens to be the grandson of Mike Burton's secretary, Margaret? Don't believe it. She's nowhere near old enough to have a grandson. Must have been a Child Bride.

IN GOOD VOICE

Anyone who has ever visited Kingsholm will be familiar with the dulcet tones of Graham Spring, keeping everyone informed about anything and everything via the public address systems, and a very good job he does too.

Unfortunately, Graham's available time doesn't permit him to perform the same invaluable service for United games, and we haven't been able to find anyone who'd like to take the job on.

So there's a nice little number going for someone. It is a job which badly needs doing, and we'd like to fill the position as soon as we can. If you think you'd like to have a crack at it, contact Doug Wadley, who will be delighted to shove the microphone in your hand.

If all else fails, perhaps we should employ Alan Myatt. He wouldn't need the PA system.

EXTRA OPENING HOURS

Speaking of Doug Wadley, and affairs of the office generally, I'm told the enormous popular demand has persuaded him to keep the office open for two extra hours each day. So you can now buy your season tickets, or whatever, until 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, throughout the season.

So we have yet another indication of the surge of interest in the Club this season, which is gratifying all round.

CAR PARKING

This has always been something of a problem, in spite of the fact that we have just about as large a car park as anyone has.

Help is at hand, however. Kingsholm School have generously offered to make their facilities available again this season, and they have been joined by the YMCA in Sebert Street. We thank them for helping us to keep the pressure off, and to keep on the right side of both the police and the neighbours.

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS

No hard news yet. But watch this space. Doug Wadley has asked me to keep some room available in the Leicester programme, where all will be revealed.

TAILPIECE

Did you notice from Hugh Worsnip's column in the Citizen that our old friend Mike Price, self-styled President (and probably sole member) of the West End Tumpers Association, has been appointed as Ambassador of the Mayor of Barton to the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands?

Hugh's obviously not been keeping his ears open around the office. His colleague, the vastly entertaining Martin Kirby, received the honour of appointment as official Scribe to the Court Leet of Barton Saint Mary. If memory serves, it was his turn to buy the beer at the time, which probably accounts for it.

Ed Martin — **IN PERSPECTIVE**

There is the classic — and supposedly true — story about the Gloucester rugby fan who got talking to a native in Los Angeles a few years back. When our local lad proclaimed that he was from Gloucester, the Yank immediately suggested "Gloucester's near Kingsholm, isn't it?"

It has to be said that the young American was a student at UCLA who just happened to turn out for that university's rugby team.

Even so, it's amazing that you can bump into people who are keen to talk Gloucester rugby when you least expect it.

During the summer, I was talking with a Texan sportswriter from the San Antonio Express-News in the far-flung reaches of Crystal Palace.

"You've gotta a pretty good rugby team in Gloucester, haven't you," he volunteered.

It turned out that he was around a couple of years ago when the club went on a post season tour to the American south-west.

We were still talking rugby when we were joined by white haired gent, also from the Lone Star State. Jimmy Johnson also admitted to being a bit of a rugby freak who also had seen Gloucester play.

So Gloucester has a "fan" in high places — Jimmy Johnson just happens to own the Dallas Cowboys, and an oil and gas company to boot.

Of course, the Gloucester club and Kingsholm is respected — and feared — throughout the world of rugby.

When the All Blacks and the USA played here a couple of years back, TV New Zealand covered the match. In between the action, they gave their viewers "down under — and along a bit" a potted history of the club, the ground and the great players.

Watch this space for a transcript of what Kiwi viewers heard from their commentators . . .

But first, as they say, there is the little matter of Cheltenham.

When it comes to Kingsholm superlatives, the fixture with Cheltenham is up in the top flight. Only the rivalry with Bristol, which started in 1892, can top the total meetings that there have been with

Cheltenham.

In all, Gloucester has faced Cheltenham 182 times since the fixture started in 1896 when Gloucester won 12-0 at Kingsholm.

Ninety-three of the meetings have been at Kingsholm — and the record shows that there have been just seven Cheltenham wins compared with 80 for Gloucester and six drawn matches to give Gloucester an 89.25 per cent winning record against their closest rivals.

All told, Gloucester have scored 1,589 points, compared with 370 by Cheltenham. That gives an average per match of 17.09 points to 3.98.

The longest unbeaten run at Kingsholm against Cheltenham is 19 matches — and this was posted between 1907-8 and 1924-5, the Cherry and Whites winning on all 19 occasions by an aggregate 360-47 margin. The 1925-6 meeting at Kingsholm saw a 7-6 Cheltenham win to end the streak. Another Gloucester score would have provided a 37-match unbeaten run!

The most points scored by Gloucester at Kingsholm against Cheltenham came in 1977-8 when the Cherry and Whites cruised to a 54-5 win. The largest winning margin in the series came in the previous season when Gloucester won 52-0 at Cheltenham. The Cherry and Whites have held Cheltenham scoreless at Kingsholm on 31 occasions — and this includes two 0-0 draws.

On the other side of the coin, Cheltenham have held Gloucester scoreless on four occasions out of their 93 visits. Their unbeaten run stretches to just two games — a 3-3 draw in 1905-6 and a 3-0 win in 1906-7 (Cheltenham's first-ever Kingsholm win). And Cheltenham's biggest win was a 14-7 decision in 1967-8.

Gloucester's all-time record against Cheltenham is:

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA
Home	93	80	6	7	1589	370
Away	89	64	9	16	1228	377
Overall	182	144	15	23	2693	747

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