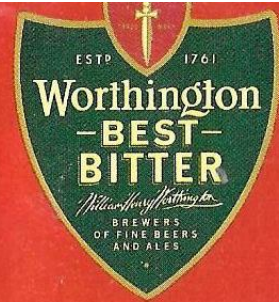




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Welcome
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Kingsholm



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RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

STROUD

TUESDAY OCTOBER 5th, 1993

KICK OFF 7.00 p.m.



Official Programme
£1.00

Peter Arnold



MAN DOTH NOT LIVE . . .



. . . by *cordon bleu* cooking alone. An exclusive diet of banquet-style meals would soon play havoc with the digestive system, and it's wise, and even enjoyable, to sit down to a plate of home-produced nosh now and then. In rugby terms, that's precisely what we're doing this evening.

The visit of Stroud is one of those events which one looks forward to for several reasons, not least in order to assess the potential of our neighbours from the other side of Horsepools Hill. They had a great season last time round, and it would be nice if they could build on that success and go on to greater things.

The match also gives us the chance to cast an eye over the progress of our own aspiring new talent. I haven't seen the Gloucester side at the time of writing, but I've no doubt that Barrie Corless will have taken the opportunity to give one or two young hopefuls a run out in First XV colours.

One Kingsholm favourite will, of course, not be here this evening. After an absolutely storming season at Stroud in 1992/3, John Gadd has at last decided to hang up those well-used boots of his. I'm told that the club did use its collective powers of persuasion to get him to change his mind, but he has, so far, remained adamant that his playing days are, to all intents and purposes, over.

Mind you, knowing Gaddy, I wouldn't be surprised if the scent of battle didn't prove to be too much for him once again, but there's considerable merit in knowing when to go, and sticking to that decision. After all, he has nothing left to prove.

Most Kingsholm regulars will agree that the legendary prial of Gadd, Teague and Longstaff were the best Gloucester back row they ever saw, and that even includes those old timers like

myself who remember the likes of Dunn, Hodge and Ibbotson. Even when Ian Smith replaced the versatile and underrated Mike Longstaff, the Gloucester back trio was rated by most good judges as the best in England. Johnny Gadd was, of course, the anchor of both those combinations, allowing Teague, Longstaff and Smith to roam at their destructive best. No one in the Home International Championship was better at doing the hard graft 'back at the ranch' than John. On the odd occasion when he skippered Gloucester — one remembers one splendid evening at Pontypool — he showed a considerable flair for that job too.

Yet, in spite of being the best No. 6 in England for a full decade, John Gadd never won a full cap, and anyone who saw him score two tries for England against Fiji in 1982 will regard that as both an injustice and a mystery. There were stories of clashes with authority, but it's all water under the bridge now.

Gaddy gave a great many people a great deal of pleasure over a very long period. We thank him for that, and hope his experience, flair and expertise won't be lost to the game. He would still have a great deal to contribute during training sessions.

Nobody would wish to see John out on the field this evening more than Stroud. They'll have to manage without him, but in spite of that, we hope they have a thoroughly enjoyable evening with us.

Post scriptum

I spoke to Roger Gibbons in the bar after the Leicester game, and commented that it was the first time I'd seen him this season. "Not surprised", he said, "It's the first time I've been here." That seemed odd, and further investigation revealed that he is now Stroud RFC's Hon. Treasurer, which partially explains his desertion.

Cont on page 12



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BEST FOR THE 1992/1993 SEASON
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS
TO KINGSHOLM

WHO'S DOING THE JOB THIS SEASON?

It isn't easy running Gloucester RFC. And it gets harder all the time. Here are the people in the hot seats for 1993/4.

President: Canon H. M. Hughes B.A.

Chairman: Peter Ford.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Doug Wadley.

Hon. Fixtures Secretary: Mike Nicholls.

Director of Rugby: Barrie Corless.

Hon. Colts Secretary: Reg Collins.

Committee: John Beaman, Mickey Booth, Alan Brinn, Bob Clewes, Terry Close, Mervyn Elway, John Fidler, David Foyle, Jim Holder, Jim Jarrett, Andy Mitchell, Cecil Pope, Trevor Pritchard, Fred Reed, Eric Stephens, Alan Townsend.

Players' Representative: Jeremy Bennett.

Captains: First XV: Ian Smith.

United: Andrew Stanley.

Coach: Keith Richardson.

Commercial Managers: Mike Burton Mangement Ltd.

Programme & Lottery Manager: Andrew Benzie (0452 419666).

Programme Editor: Peter Arnold, who is happy to receive contribution, comment, anecdote or insult on 0452 380481, or at 74 Victoria Street, Gloucester GL1 4EW.

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NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello Everyone,

Welcome once again to Kingsholm for tonight's match against Stroud. If, like me, you travelled down to Bath on last Saturday you will appreciate just how hard the lads are trying to get that elusive first win. The performance against Bath was indicative of the way the whole season has gone so far. The place kicking was again a little wayward and although we put them under a lot of pressure at the beginning of the second half, lapses in concentration at the back let us down again. I feel that when it clicks and the boys put it together for the full 80 minutes someone is going to suffer, let's hope that it's London Irish this coming Saturday.

Talking of this coming Saturday, we will be running our third Golden Gamble. The first two winners took home over £250.00 and the same amount went to club funds each time. If you wanted to win that much money for a pound stake on the horses you would need to pick a 250-1 winner, a very rare breed indeed. So come on give it a go and remember the more tickets we sell the more MONEY we give away.

Cheers, NOBBY



Peter Arnold cont.

I then enquired who he'd be shouting for this evening.

"I don't actually *shout* for anyone," he replied, "but I shall be *supporting* Stroud."

That's me put in my place.

GOLDEN GAMBLE

When I spoke to him last week, Andrew Benzie didn't think he would be running a 'Golden Gamble' this evening. With all due respect to our very welcome visitors, he doubted whether the gate would be large enough to make it a worthwhile flutter. However, he does ask me to tell you that the two exercises in winning money he's run so far this season have proved highly successful. On each occasion, the lucky winner has returned home rejoicing to the tune of over £250 better off.

The jammy so-and-so at the Leicester game was Mr. A. C. Price who was an inhabitant, for the day, of the Morton Cullimore hospitality box. Good for him. If I were feeling Bolshie, I would observe that at least we lads on the terrace can have the satisfaction of winning some of the money from the aristocracy in the rarefied atmosphere of the first floor at the Dean's Walk end.

For anyone who has missed out on 'Golden Gamble' this season, I should point out that the whole thing is simplicity itself. One buys a ticket for a quid, at half time a counterfoil is drawn from the murkier recesses of Andrew Benzie's jock strap, and a cheque for half the takings of the gamble is presented to the lucky winner in front of the main stand. Easy, isn't it?

So, if there isn't one tonight, look out for the lads selling 'Golden Gamble' tickets before the London Irish game on Saturday. It could solve your Christmas drinks problem.

SOUTH AFRICAN BARBARIANS

I note that the South African Barbarians have named a squad of 28 players for their British tour which starts right here on Tuesday, 19th of October at 7.00 pm.

This is a notable double for Gloucester RFC who, you will recall, similarly entertained the fancied Transvaal side on their tour debut last year. Not to put too fine a point on it, they got walloped, and I'm not being unkind, because I remember the Transvaal president starting his after-match speech with the immortal words, "What can you say when your side has just had a

hell of a licking?"

It's tempting to draw comparisons between the two games, but there is one significant difference between the two situations. On that evening, Transvaal had several players missing on International duty. When the absentees returned, the South Africans went on to beat everything in sight. This time round, the Barbarians will have their full 28-man squad available.

However, the first match of a tour does present particular problems. Obviously everyone is determined to do well, and this can lead to tensions. On a representative tour such as this one, the side won't have played together before, and however much training you do, there's no real substitute for experience out there in the middle, in a genuinely competitive situation.

There is also the point that, after many years in the wilderness, Transvaal didn't know what they were getting themselves into — and it showed. Twelve months on, Springbok rugby has learned a very great deal about what the northern hemisphere game is all about, and no one ever accused South African players of being slow learners.

One mustn't forget that word 'Barbarians', either. We all know the principles of Barbarian rugby in this part of the world, and must assume that the South African variety also exists to play attractive, open rugby that everyone, players included, can thoroughly enjoy.

All in all, it's an intriguing situation, and a game you won't want to miss. I'm afraid that the financial situation forces us into an 'all pay' mode, but at least the tickets are available now.

As is only fair, Members get first bite at the cherry. Until October 12th, tickets will only be available to Grandstand Members: after that, first come, first served for everyone. (Break for commercial. It's another good reason for becoming a Member).

Prices are £8.00 for a Stand seat, which isn't a bad deal when you realise that at least one First Division club charges £9.00 for an 'ordinary' League game. There will be a temporary stand, similar to that provided on various occasions over the past couple of seasons, and seats there will cost you £6.00. Ground tickets are on sale at £5.00, and both Ground and Temporary Stand tickets are available at half price for OAP's and Juniors.

It should be a great occasion: a chance to

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see what the lads can do against top-class opposition, when freed from the shackles and tensions of League rugby. They would be very pleased to have the support of your vocal chords, and it would be good to see the old ground packed to the eyebrows. See you there?

MORE ABOUT TICKETS

There's the usual word of warning from Doug Wadley about International tickets. As usual, demand far outstrips supply, and Doug's judgement, based on information already received, is that about one Member in five who has applied will actually be allocated a ticket. And that assumes strictly one ticket per Member.

I should also point out that almost half of the tickets we receive will be priced at £30.00, which some people may feel is a bit steep for a day out. But that's the situation.

At the time of writing, I don't have information about tickets for the ADT Divisional match on October 23rd, or the England Emerging Players v. New Zealand game on November 23rd, but as soon as we know — you'll know. Watch this space.

CLUBCALL

Charlie Haddock had a perfectly legitimate grouse in the 'Pink 'Un' the other week. He complained that on ringing our last season's 'Clubcall' line to get comments on the Newcastle Gosforth game, he got a report on last July's AGM and nothing else.

Now, at last I have something to report. But you mightn't like it much. After a long, slow

correspondence which started in July and involved Lord knows how many letters and faxes from the Arnold address, finally, on Wednesday, September 29th I received a letter from Clubcall, which is part of the Ladbroke Group. The important sentence read that they could no longer justify last year's arrangement on financial grounds.

I don't know whether that means that they've given us up completely, or just that they can't afford me and are willing to consider someone cheaper, but that's the situation as I know it at the moment. If you like to chance 36p a minute to see if something's happening, then that's up to you.

If anyone is tempted to offer their services, then I'd strongly advise them to give me a ring first and have a chat about it.

If Charlie Haddock, or anyone else, thinks that this is a retrograde step and would like to take the matter further, then please don't complain to me, or to Gloucester RFC. The fellow to write to is a pleasant enough chap called Dave Compton and he's Marketing Manager of ClubCall, 1-9 Downham Road, London N1 5AA

COLTS

Reg Collins, Hon. Colts Secretary, wrote me a highly informative letter last week, which I'll print in its entirety when I have a little more space. Briefly, he says that this has been the best start to a Colts season since he took his job up in 1977. He points out that our junior string has scored 150 points from their five matches, and only conceded 54.

Cont on page 20

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He is also delighted by the number of supporters which our Colts side now attracts to home games, and is sure that the reception they received when running out against Northampton last week boosted their game enormously.

The next chance you'll have to add your voice to that support comes along on October 13th when the opposition will be Coventry. The lads would appreciate your coming along, and I can positively guarantee you a highly entertaining evening.

While on the subject, Reg also point out that Gloucester Colts have also supplied a whole clutch of players to opposing clubs. Particularly relevant this evening are the names of Stroud's Rupert Foote, who did, in fact, skipper our Colts side, and that fine performer, Alan Dix.

It may be that our First XV are giving us one or two palpitations, just at the moment, but add the Colts record to our superb United performance and you can't deny that the future playing strength of the Club looks to be in very good hands indeed.

Which is as it should be. There's no substitute for strength in depth, and Barrie Corless, who constantly stresses the importance he places on youth rugby, must feel that he has something to work with.

LOTS OF CONGRATULATIONS

First and foremost, our congratulations to Ian Smith and Peter Jones on their selection, once again, for the Scotland Squad to face the All Blacks.

It all sounds very good, and we wish them both every success, but there is a down side to it, as was brought home to me two Saturdays ago.

After an exceptionally gruelling League game against Leicester, Pete and Ian hardly had time to get out of the showers before they had to steam off all the way up to Edinburgh for a squad training session the following day. You have to be exceptionally committed to be willing to put up with that sort of hassle, and both of them deserve full credit for their dedication.

We must also congratulate the whole clutch of players who have been selected for the South West squad for their All Blacks match. How many of them make it all the way to the final XV is another matter, but the selection must put them in the frame for the Divisional Championship, and we wish them all the best for that.

LONDON IRISH ON SATURDAY

Back to League action on Saturday. It's been an exceptionally hard introduction to the

season so far, but the London Irish game sees the end of First Division commitments for the moment.

I suppose most of our League opponents will be sighing with relief and looking forward to a rather easier spell after Saturday, but it hasn't worked out that way for Gloucester. Our next two games are Cardiff on Saturday, October 16th and that South African Barbarians match on Tuesday, October 19th.

At least the lads might get a breather after that. At the time of writing, the Firsts have no game scheduled for either Saturday, October 23rd, which is the day of the Division versus the North at Kingsholm, or Saturday, October 30th, when the Exeter game has been cancelled.

I'm told that Barrie Corless would like a game on one of those Saturdays, but nothing has been arranged as I sit here pounding the old Iron Maiden. Again, watch this space.

Musn't forget the United, of course. They're away to London Irish on Saturday, and travel all the way to Cheltenham on the following Tuesday.

On Saturday week they're down to entertain Richmond, which clashes with the Cardiff game, so I assume they'll be playing at Oxstalls. They then travel to Bedford and Bristol University on successive Saturdays.

It's all go, isn't it?

TAILPIECE

Back to Charlie Haddock, (thanks for the nice things you said about me a couple of weeks ago, Charlie). You remeber his query, which I followed up, about the comparatively recent christening of the St. Marks Street side as 'The Shed'.

Jim and Ray Pitt reckon it's not recent at all. There was a disastrous fire sometime between the Wars, which demolished the old covered terracing on that side. it was rebuilt into the structure we all know and love these days. According to Jim and Ray, the first Committee member, name unrecorded, who saw the new structure exclaimed "It looks just like a bloody shed." And the name stuck.



Ed Martin — IN PERSPECTIVE

On Saturday April 15, 1893, Stroud met Gloucester First XV at Kingsholm for the first time. Had that match been played today, Gloucester would have had a 10-8 win. But 100 years ago, the scoring was different — and Stroud recorded a famous one-point Kingsholm win. The press report of the match is exactly as printed.

The Gloucester team were engaged in the last match of the season at Kingsholm, when the rising Stroud were played. The visitors have tried conclusions twice this season with the Gloucester 'A' team winning the first game, and the second contest ending in a draw. The Citizens were without A. Collins and Poole, whilst Stroud were assisted by W. H. Birch, of the Bristol club. There was a fairly large crowd of spectators, including about 400 or 500 supporters from Stroud.

It was twenty minutes after the advertised time before a start was made, Stroud kicking off from the Worcester-street goal. The visitors' halves dribbled nicely down the field, and got into the Gloucester 25. Hughes, however, by the aid of a free kick, sent the ball to the centre, where several scrambling scrums ensued, which ended favourably to Stroud. By smart forward play the visitors got into the Gloucester quarters, where operations were continued for some time. Jackson and Bagwell brought relief to the homesters with useful kicks, and Gough, with a strong run, carried hostilities to half-way. Bagwell passed nicely to George and a round of passing ensued, but Taylor failed to properly receive the leather from Gough, and a chance of scoring was lost. The game up to now had practically been devoid of interest, but a length the visitors indulged in an excellent bout of passing which gained them hearty applause, and considerable ground. Price retrieved the lost ground for the home side, and Taylor, with a fine run down the touch line, placed the Stroud lines in danger. Having secured a footing the Gloucesterians worked together with a will, and from a combined forward rush the ball was taken over, J. Mayo being credited with a try. Jackson, however, failed with the place kick. Stroud now pressed severely, and Butcher and Beanland being particularly smart at half,

Gloucester had a very warm time. Half-time score:- Gloucester, 1 try; Stroud, nil.

George re-started operations, Wellings early putting in a smart run into the Stroud half. The visitors, however, quickly worked to the home 25, where they had repeated hard lines in not scoring. Their forwards rushed the home pack off their legs, and kept Gloucester continually on the defensive. One of two exciting scrimmages took place in close proximity to the local's line, but eventually they managed to relieve the pressure somewhat by a dint of hard work. Jackson got away with a dodgy run, but he was not allowed to go far, the tackling of Stroud being very smart. Bagwell at last sent the leather very cleverly to Gough, who handed to Jackson. The latter ran to the back, when he passed to Hbert George, who easily scored. Again the kick by Jackson proved abortive. Stroud did not relax their efforts in the least and transferred the game to the home quarter, where they were awarded a penalty kick for an infringement. Haines had the ball placed and the ex-Gloucesterian landed a splendid goal amidst loud cheers. Stroud now made desperate attempts to score, and their efforts were eventually crowned with success, Beanland dashing over a minute before time amidst considerable excitement. Haines failed with the place kick, but as the referee immediately sounded "no side", the visitors were returned victors by one point, the score being Stroud 1 goal (penalty), 1 try (5 points); Gloucester 2 tries (4 points).

The following were the teams:- Gloucester — A. F. Hughes, back; W. H. Taylor, W. Jackson, W. Gough and H. George, three-quarter backs; W. George and T. Bagwell, half-backs; R. C. Jenkins, C. Click, J. Mayo, W. Collins, R. Price, A. Wellings, H. Thornett and J. Hanman, forwards. Stroud — T. Hogg, back; C. A. Apperly, K. P. Apperly, H. Haines and H. H. Newman, three-quarter backs; W. Butcher and A. Beanland, half-backs; W. H. Birch, E. Clarke, H. Green, C. R. Jefferies, H. J. H. King, J. Mills, T. Prosser, and J. D. Smith, forwards. Touch-judges, Messrs. H. Bennett and A. Cooper. Referee, S. A. Ball.

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