

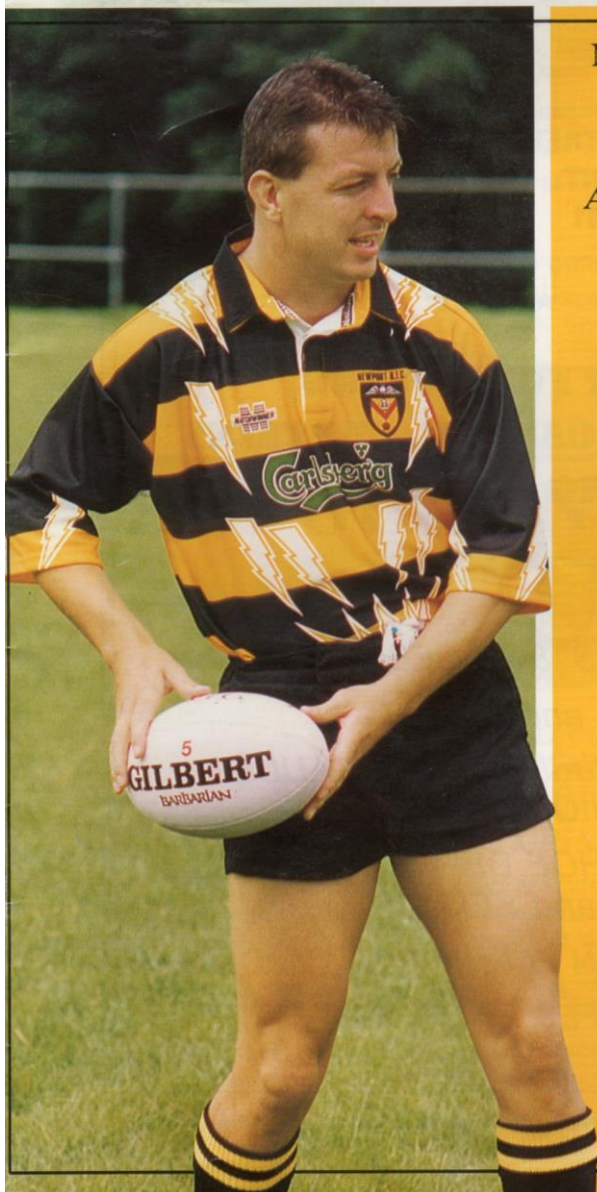
NEWPORT

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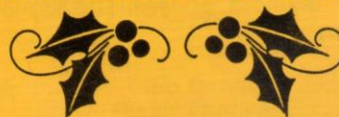
OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

70^P



Newport Rugby Football Club
wish all their Members
and Supporters

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



GLOUCESTER

WED. 22nd DECEMBER 1993

Kick Off 7.00 pm

**NEWPORT RUGBY
CALL LINE
0891-660 224**

NEWPORT



Rodney Review

by Willis Huntley



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EVERYONE



Tonight's match between Newport and their old friends from the other side of the Severn Bridge — Gloucester — is the start of the Yuletide festivities for both teams, so it is appropriate to wish the players, their officials and supporters a very happy Christmas and good fortune in yet another new year.

But let Mr. Ewart Pryer, chairman of Newport Rugby Club, give the traditional and official greetings to all concerned with the future welfare of the club. Here is his message:

"Our pre-season optimism was soon dashed by a succession of injuries which resulted in a somewhat disappointing start to the campaign. Nevertheless, I would like to wish all our supporters a very merry Christmas and, at the same time, thank them for their very loyal support during a very difficult time."

"I know you will join with me in wishing the team well for the remainder of the season, and hope that the mischievous injury imp will leave Rodney Parade as quickly as possible."

Unhappily, that injury imp is still determined to cause as much damage as possible, and he certainly dealt Simon McCracken — and Newport — another severe blow a fortnight or so before Christmas. That blow was inflicted at Pandy Park where, to everybody's dismay, the Newport full back sustained a fractured leg. It is to be hoped that his recovery will be swift, though he is not likely to play again until next season.

McCracken has the consolation of knowing that Newport collected two precious points from their Cross Keys visit as well as registering the season's double over the Western Valley team. That victory, which followed their success against Dunvant, was, however, overshadowed by their excellent victory over title-chasing Llanelli. Those three triumphs have certainly improved Newport's position in the league table.

Tonight's match is the beginning of an attractive non-league programme for Newport, whose next engagement will be with another club from across the Severn Bridge, Bristol, who will be at Rodney Parade on Boxing Day. Other matches lined up for early in the new year are against the Scottish clubs, Watsonians and Glasgow High/Kelvinside.

With no points at stake in these matches it will be a welcome break from the tenseness of league tussles for Newport players, who will have the opportunity to give full rein to bright, open rugby, tactics which are likely to get a quick response from the English and Scottish players!

TODAY'S VISITORS . . .



WELCOME, THE CHERRY PICKERS



It is almost becoming a seasonal tradition for Gloucester to visit Newport during Christmas week, and once again Rodney Parade supporters are expecting the men in the cherry and white jerseys from Kingsholm to give full co-operation in making tonight's match a merry festive occasion — as they usually contrive to do!

Gloucester, of course, have always been one of England's most illustrious clubs, and their history is full of the achievements of their players, not only for the club but also for England and Britain overseas. The saga of those achievements is far too long to relate in this brief article — it would require a book or two to do it justice!

Today, under their new director of rugby, Barrie Corless, the former England, Moseley and Coventry centre, they are striving to maintain their prestige, and they have a squad of players who are capable of achieving that.

Their captain, Ian Smith, who is now in his third season at Gloucester's helm, and Peter Smith are both Scottish internationals, and last month Smith captained Scotland's Development XV against the New Zealanders. Also in the Gloucester squad are several players who have appeared for England in A and B internationals. Among them are Neil Matthews, who toured New Zealand with England's second string, David Sims, who scored a try for England's Emerging Players XV against the All Blacks, and David Smith. Also in England's Emerging Players team was wing Peter Holford.

Among other Gloucester players who are familiar to Rodney Parade followers are Marcus Hannaford, Tim Smith, Martyn Roberts, Donald Caskie, Damian Cummins and Sam Masters, and among the newcomers are outside half Ashley Johnson, an officer in the Royal Air Force stationed at Innsworth, Bob Baxter, a number eight from Exeter, and Bruce Fealey, a scrum half from Moseley.

Richard West, a 6ft 8ins back row forward, who comes from Hereford, joined Gloucester from Moseley. He has already played for England at under-21 international level, and he is still under surveillance by the England selectors — like several other of his colleagues who have played for the South-West XV in the divisional championships.

And as we look back on the great Gloucester players of yesteryear, among those who are still well remembered are Tom Voyce, Arthur Hudson, Harold Boughton, Grahame Parker, George Hastings, John Watkins, Peter Hordern (who also played for Newport), "Bumps" Carpenter, Peter Kingston, Mike Burton and, of course, that little Welshman Willie Jones, whose feats for Gloucester include 214 points in a season, including 17 tries.

Jones was also a first-class cricketer for Glamorgan. Grahame Parker, capped by England at rugby, was also a brilliant cricketer for Gloucestershire and Cambridge University. In his first rugby match for England he scored 15 points against Ireland. Yes, Gloucester are a club of great traditions!

WILLIS HUNTLEY

TONIGHT'S TEAMS:

NEWPORT

Colours: BLACK & AMBER

Matthew EVANS Cefnwr
Mike PUDDY Asgell Dde
Duncan HUGHES Canolwr Dde
Mark YENDLE Canolwr Chwith
John GOODCHILD Asgell Chwith
Jason WILLIAMS Maswr
Mark RODERICK Mewnwr

Mark DAVIS Prop Rhydd
Ian JONES Bachwr
James ALVIS Prop Tyn
David WATERS Clo
M. VOYLE/C. WYATT Clo
Ben WATKINS Blaenasgellwr
Richard GOODEY (Capt.) Wythwr
Chris SCOTT Blaenasgellwr

David LLEWELLYN Eilyddion
John AKANDE
Andrew PEACOCK
Chris MORRIS
Neil JONES
Chris ARNOLD

GLOUCESTER

Colours: CHERRY & WHITE

15 Full Back **J. MERCHANT**
14 Right Wing **J. PERRINS**
13 Right Centre **I. MORGAN**
12 Left Centre **M. BEDNEY**
11 Left Wing **C. DEE**
10 Stand-off **P. BEECH**
9 Scrum-half **L. BECK**

1 Prop **S. BALDWIN**
2 Hooker **A. KNIGHT**
3 Prop **S. BALDWIN**
4 Lock **P. MILES**
5 Lock **P. BELL**
6 Flanker **P. GLANVILLE**
8 No. 8 **A. STANLEY**
7 Flanker **M. NICHOLLS**

 Replacements **R. FULLER**
 **G. KEYSE**
 **M. HANNAFORD**

REFEREE: GWYN POWDEN (Taffs Well)

Newport RFC wish to thank tonight's Ball Sponsors:
JAMES GILBERT LTD · DHL INTERNATIONAL (UK) LTD.

Remember This Game



JOLTED BY GLOUCESTER



Matches between Newport and Gloucester have seldom failed to provide a full quota of stirring rugby, often grim and fiercely contested, yet more often than not packed with exhilarating moves. Among the most exciting matches between the two clubs was the 1986 one at Rodney Parade in which 55 points were scored, 34 of them by Newport who conceded 21 points.

Newport scored four tries, but it was Paul Turner who really made their total soar. Turner, who went on to win three Welsh caps, landed five penalty goals and climaxed his kicking with a superbly executed dropped goal. The former Newport half back is now Sale's player-coach as well as their captain.

Newport started as though they would overwhelm Gloucester and tries by Jonathan Callard, who this season has become England's new full back, Jason White and Marc Batten, plus Turner's first two penalty goals, rushed them into an 18-0 lead.

But Gloucester, who had England internationals Mike Teague and Malcolm Preedy, and England B caps Richard Mogg and Marcus Hannaford in their team, eventually succeeded in slowing down Newport's gallop. Their right centre, Paul Taylor, went over for a try which full back Paul Mansell converted. The latter kicked a penalty goal soon afterwards.

Newport, however, regained their poise and, after a try by Batten and Turner's other goals, they were well ahead again; but Gloucester were by no means finished and tries by Jim Breese and Mike Hamlin, and two conversions by Paul Mansell enabled them to reach 21 points after Hannaford had been carried off injured.

WILLIS HUNTLEY

NEWPORT'S POINTS SCORERS

Name	Tries	Con's.	P.G.'s.	D.G.'s	Pts.
David REES	6	29	27	1	172
Jason WILLIAMS	1	5	6	1	36
Chris WYATT	7	—	—	—	35
David LLEWELLYN	6	—	—	—	30
Duncan HUGHES	4	—	—	—	20
Andrew LEWIS	3	—	—	—	15
James ALVIS	3	—	—	—	15
John GOODCHILD	3	—	—	—	15
Keith LEE	3	—	—	—	15
Simon McCracken	2	—	—	—	10
Ben ATKINS	2	—	—	—	10
Roger BIDGOOD	2	—	—	—	10
Ian JONES	2	—	—	—	10
Kevin WITHEY	1	—	—	—	5
Mark YENDLE	1	—	—	—	5
Ben WATKINS	1	—	—	—	5
Richard PASK	1	—	—	—	5
Glenn GEORGE	1	—	—	—	5
Alun CARTER	1	—	—	—	5
Ian JEFFREYS	1	—	—	—	5
David GRAY	1	—	—	—	5

NEWPORT WERE AWARDED ONE PENALTY TRY