

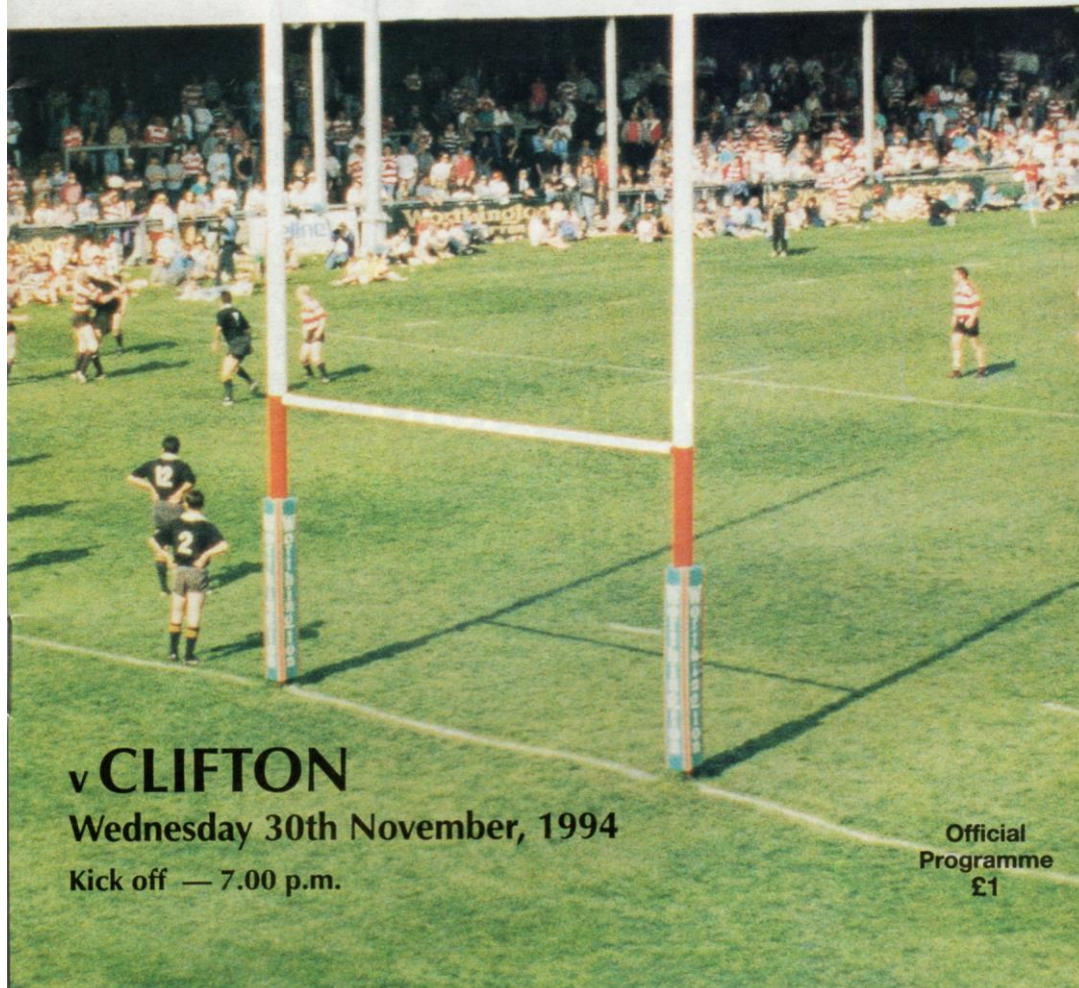
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



FOUNDED 1873



Official Club Sponsors



v **CLIFTON**

Wednesday 30th November, 1994

Kick off — 7.00 p.m.

Official
Programme
£1

..... **Peter Arnold**

Victorian Values

I don't know whether it's the slightly Dickensian overtones which start to creep in at this time of year, but the venerable name 'Clifton' does seem to paint a rather Victorian picture: reminders of times which were slower, easier, and some would say, kinder.

There are several idyllic images which spring to mind: that of the youthful, precocious William Gilbert Grace stroking 300 runs at Clifton College, in a summer which, in the mind's eye, started in May and meandered sunnily all the way to October. That of the ladies cantering elegantly over the Downs, sidesaddle of course, and perhaps even visiting the new Zoological Gardens, there to shudder deliciously over the lions and elephants. That of Mr. Brunel's famous suspension bridge, where, legend has it, one betrayed young Miss attempted to take her own life, but was wafted gently down to the mud of the Avon by the parachute effect of her crinoline.

Things do change, of course. Not all that many years ago, before the liberalisation of the licencing laws, one could drink through the entire 24 hours in Clifton - if one knew which clubs to frequent.

But Clifton Rugby Football Club goes on, it appears, for ever. Founded just a handfull of years after Gloucester, it has always been one of the West Country's most respected clubs, and quite right too. Not wishing to trespass on Ed Martin's territory, I note, for example, that Gloucester, at the time, with Blackheath and Rockcliff, one of the three best teams in England, opened their 1897/8 season by entertaining Clifton, winning 14-0. Mr. Lovesy, the Gloucester Secretary, recorded at the time that Clifton were 'very smart with their feet.

Gloucester rather scraggly' whatever that may mean.

There is a tendency, among Gloucester supporters, to regard the Clifton game as just another local game, rather like the ones against, with respect, Cheltenham and Stroud. That view doesn't stand up to scrutiny, however. Our most welcome and respected visitors are battling valiantly to hold on to their spot around half way up Division Three, contesting affairs, with a great deal of credit, against the likes of Bedford, Blackheath, Rosslyn Park and Richmond.

As Clifton Officials have told me in the past, their club's major problem has always been that promising young players from their area tend to gravitate towards Bristol or even Gloucester. They therefore have to roll their own, so to speak, and do this through a very vigorous youth policy. Just a few years ago, for example, they were running seven senior teams and ten youth and mini sides. Which makes the mind boggle, slightly.

As you know, that situation was alleviated several seasons ago, by a welcome influx of disenchanted Bristol players, including the immensely talented Simon Hogg. This, together with the ripening talent of their home-grown breed of players, has sparked their steady rise from the Area leagues to their present eminent status.

Who knows where it will all end? We, at Kingsholm, certainly wish them well in their endeavours, and sincerely hope that all at Cribb's Causeway goes well for as long as anyone can foresee. They're always welcome here, and it's good to greet them once again.

Cont on page 12

<p>THE SOCIETY THAT TRIES HARDER</p>		<p> WISHES GLOUCESTER R-F-C ALL THE BEST FOR THE 1994/1995 SEASON. AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS TO KINGSHOLM</p>
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How Charlie Haddock



Sees It

Does the appearance of Haddock in the Gloucester programme mean that the powers that be have got to him? I was asked by Peter Arnold to write a few notes on how the fans have viewed the season so far and I was happy to oblige . . . just as long as I could say whatever I liked!

Anyway for your average Shed-ite, who just wants to see Gloucester at the top of the tree where they belong, it has been a roller-coaster ride. The humiliation at Wasps, the joy at the West Hartlepool try feast, the desperate days at Sale and Northampton, the epic struggle with the eternally-lucky Bath and the agony and ecstasy of the whistle-dominated clash with Bristol.

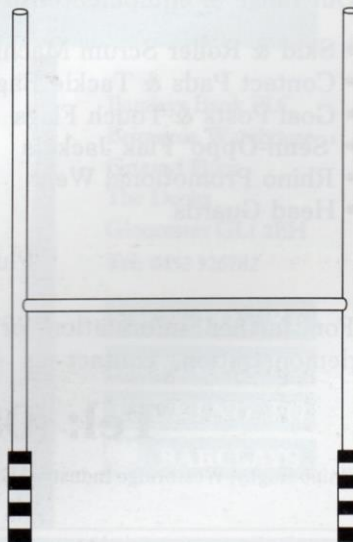
But I do get the feeling that the excellent win at Harlequins could be a psychological turning point: Gloucester CAN win away from Kingsholm, they CAN get through a game giving away fewer penalties than the opposition AND they can score sparkling tries from unpromising situations.

The supporters have made a few headlines as well as the team what with the "abusing the refs and booing the kickers" rumpus. I don't wish to add too much to that rather tired old story here, but I will say that when watching the dreadful Rugby Special the other week I noticed booing and jeering of Jez Harris as he was taking the kicks at Bath (home of most of the criticism of Gloucester!)

There are a still a few pockets in the Shed who yearn for the mythical days of an all-Glawster born-and-bred side. Those days, if they ever existed, are gone. And if anyone wants to argue with me about the merits of imports. I'll say just one word:

MAPLETOFT - the most exciting player at Kingsholm for many a long year. Anyway, many Gloucester greats, like Willie Jones or Don Rutherford or Keith Richardson or John Orwin for example, weren't exactly born within sight of the Cathedral. Even Mr. Hartley who founded the club was a Londoner, I think.

With hindsight, it wasn't the best day to play the New Zealand champions with a number of first teamers on representative duty. However, what an impressive sight Canterbury were especially after the first 20 minutes when Gloucester competed well. Their pace, power and angles of running were magnificent — I don't reckon Gloucester would have stopped some of the tries if they'd had 20 blokes on the field.



Peter Arnold cont.

In my view, one of the best things to have happened to our local rugby press coverage in the past couple of seasons, has been the advent of the pseudonymous Charlie Haddocks' 'View from the Shed' in the Pink 'Un each week. You might agree with his views or not (I usually do), but he certainly adds spice to the season.

His (or her) identity is a closely guarded secret. Indeed, I was considering the thesis that he's a computer programme, and I've even been accused of being him myself. Which I'm not. The only clue we have to date, is that The Haddock was careless enough to let slip, a while ago, that he drinks in the 'Robinswood'.

The Pink 'Un does go to some length to protect its sources. Mr. Haddock wasn't even allowed to fax his contribution through to me himself, in case I solved the mystery through the address line at the top. So he faxed it to St. John's Lane, and they passed it on to me.

Anyway, The Haddock contribution is on page 9

Now come on, Charlie. Anyone I invite can write anything they like. I just make three exceptions. I will delete anything which is (a) libellous, (b) obscene, or (c) witty enough for me to want to steal for my own use. Mr. Haddock did not infringe on any of those counts.

But leave us not be snide. We do much appreciate Charlie Haddock's contribution to the scene, and send all good wishes to himself, to Mrs. Haddock and all the little spratlings.

WE GET LETTERS

Two letters this week. The first one is from that reliable historian, John Hopcroft of Longlevens. I give it to you in its entirety:

Dear Peter,

In your programme notes for the Canterbury match you stated that Melrose was the first side from the Scottish RFU ever to play at Kingsholm.

However, if you will check records you will find that Watsonians played Glos. in 1911-12 season (11-11) and again in 1912-13 (9-9).

I remember my father the late Albert Hopcraft who made several 1st team

appearances in the 20's telling me that he saw his first game at Kingsholm when Watsonians played.

By the way keep up the good work with the programme.

John Hopcraft

I really should have known better. My mistake was that I forgot you shouldn't believe all you hear on the wireless. The information I had came straight from Graham Spring over the loudspeaker system at the National Tens Tournament. I'm sure he is just as grateful as I am for the correction.


Our second letter comes from an aggrieved lady named Anne Davis from Tewkesbury. I must admit to some sympathy with her views:

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I attended the match at Kingsholm yesterday, and must make a complaint about the use of air horns in the crowd. I'm not trying to be nitpicking and spoil other people's fun, but their noise totally ruined the afternoon for me. My brother and I were at the shed stand behind the posts and the constant blowing was echoed by the roof. I left the ground with a throbbing headache that didn't clear until the small hours of this morning. I'm not the only Gloucester supporter irritated by these nuisances as many others complained at the time and were ignored. Heaven forbid that the natural exuberance of supporters be curbed, but I paid to watch the match as well and I don't see why my afternoon should be spoiled by these pests.

Anne Davis

Doug Wadley was very quick off the mark, replying to M/s Davis' letter immediately. Basically, he was pleading 'Not Guilty' pointing out that the offending air horns were being wielded by that very welcome and numerous contingent of New Zealand supporters. However, we thought it worth pointing out to any supporter who may have been given ideas by the practice, that such shennanigans aren't really welcome at Kingsholm for the reasons so cogently stated by Anne Davis. I hope the experience hasn't put her off supporting Gloucester in the future.

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<small>Inside this ground (The old changing rooms) Phone: 0452 306188</small>		

TICKETOLOGY

Three sets of tickets to talk about today. First and foremost, those for the tricky Cup outing to Wakefield, on December 17th, are available now. They cost £5.00 a time, and they're for the ground only. This is because the College Grove Ground, just over a quarter of a mile from Wakefield town centre, can only admit 2,900 supporters, and our allocation works out at around 900, which isn't all that many. And it probably isn't a good idea to go all that way without one just on the off chance, because the match has been declared all-ticket and a capacity crowd is expected.

Coaches have been arranged, of course, although the early (2.30) kick-off means that timings vary a little from what you may have expected. They will leave Kingsholm at 9.30 am, and leave from Wakefield at 5.30pm. Assuming the game finishes at around 4.00pm, that still leaves time for a celebratory, or heaven forbid, consolatory beverage before wending homewards.

Do go up if you can. Your support would be highly appreciated.

Second, tickets for that extremely intriguing game between the New Zealand U21 side and the South West equivalent are also available now, at £4.00 for the ground and £5.00 for the Stand. The date, to recap, is Monday, December 5th, kick-off at 7.00 pm.

Did you notice that the young Kiwis started their seven-match tour by putting 41 points on the North U21's up at West Hartlepool? It will be interesting to see how much better our lads do.

Finally, Doug Adley has a few tickets, at £22 and £27, for the Twickenham meeting between England and Canada, who, you will no doubt recall, actually beat Wales at the Arms Park last season. That will be an interesting one, giving a better guide to the possibilities for the Five Nations than the Romanian affair did.

WAKEFIELD - STOP PRESS

Hospitality Lunch for Cup Match!!!

Wakefield RFC are offering special
Hospitality Lunches at £50.00 a seat,
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See the game from a hospitality box

*Bar available

Details from Mike Burton Group

0452 419666

Cont on page 20

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Gloucester Rugby Club use
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GLOUCESTER
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts
	ccc	

T	G	Pts
FT		

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

H/T

15. Peter Hart

14. Jerry Perrins

13. Mark Bedney

12. Ben Maslen

11. Chris Dee

10. Lee Osborne

9. Paul Salter

1. Adey Powles

2. Phil Greening †

3. Warwick Bullock

4. Mark Cornwell

5. Simon Devereux 17/2 ES

6. Pete Glanville

7. Mark Nicholls

8. Greg Keyse

Replacements

Laurie Beck

Andy Martin

Ian Morgan

Referee: Wayne Erikson - Australian RU

T/Judges: Ed Morrison, Matt Bavliiss

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

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Cumulative Match Score

0	3		
5	3		
5	0		
10	6		
17	6		
17	13		
24	13		
31	13		
36	13		

†-Captain

CLIFTON
(Lavender & Black Hoops)

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts
	ppc	

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts

F/T

15. Mark Beresford

14. Trevor Davis

13. Peter Naivalvrua

12. Kerry Lock

11. Matt Brain

10. Simon Hogg

9. P. Jeffrey/G. Shipton

1. Andy Fisher

2. Lee Ashford

3. A. Reuben/C. Newth

4. Matt Dodds

5. Lee Waddon

6. S. Howell/S. Sweles

7. A. Haywood/M. Horner

8. G. Craine

Replacements:

Adrian Freeman

Dean Dewdney

Peter Arnold cont.

SOMETHING MISSING

It's regrettable, but we don't have a Match Mascot this evening. The brilliant and vivacious Margaret Nelson, who knows about these things, theorises that the vacancy has much to do with the fact that this is an evening match on the eve of a school day, and that trivia like homework may be getting in the way. (Just kidding, before concerned parents and pedagogues get at me for being subversive).

This does, however, point up the fact that there are a few vacancies in the New Year for boys and girls who fancy running out at Kingsholm in the Gloucester strip, and meeting the players while they're at it. If you have a young friend or relative who might appreciate the chance, contact Margaret Nelson by ringing 0452 419666.

Incidentally, there are dangers. The excitement of the whole occasion got to one very small boy last season to such an extent that he discovered he badly needed to visit the loo, just as everyone was beginning to run out on to the field. There was no time for anything other than the skipper, Ian Smith, virtually to drag him on the field, and for the poor lad to run back with his legs crossed. So if your pride and joy finds himself doing the honours anytime, you'd do him a favour by making sure he's 'been' before everything gets going.

NICE ONE STUART !

Following my brief comment in the Bridgend programme, I've had one or two blokes ask me about the remarkable article penned in a recent 'Daily Telegraph' by Stuart Barnes, the Man we always Loved to Hate. If you didn't see it, you missed a treat, so here are a few nuggets from the piece.

After describing Bristol's back play as "inspirational as a dinner with John Major" (bit hard, I thought, but then, we know all about Bath and Bristol, don't we ?) Barnsey writes "*Travel up the M5, however, and supporters will witness a startling metamorphosis, to shatter the complacency of the most cynical follower..... At Gloucester, the thought of fluent back play has been anathema to the average Kingsholm man, a heresy to the diehards of the infamous (!) Shed - that bastion of football chants and genuine, if hard, humour.*"

"In terms of volume, the greatest roar is still reserved for a powerful forward surge from a line-out. If Dave Sims can swat an opposing fly-half into the bargain, so much the better. Yet the

revolution is happening in front of the very host of supporters who inhabit the Stygian gloom of the Shed - and they approve of it."

All pretty fair, I thought, even if he does overstate his case a bit. As a Bath outside-half probably would, although I never got the impression that Stuart Barnes particularly disliked playing at Kingsholm, even though he was the recipient of some vocal stick at times.

After that, Stuart goes on to say some very complimentary things about Mark Mapletoft, and talks about "*The accomplished Simon Morris and Martyn Kimber*" followed by "*Gloucester's flying wing and outstanding prospect, Paul Holford.*"

The article ends with "*Enter Mapletoft, Holford, Morris and the new era of Gloucester. It's good to see you boys smiling in the Shed.*"

And it's good to receive such accolades from such a long-time adversary as Stuart Barnes. Perhaps I'll try and get him to write a 'HOW STUART BARNES SEES IT' page for us, one of these days.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

It's an odd time of the year, rugby-wise, for a variety of reasons, not least the deprivations of the Divisional Championship and the run-up to Christmas. Parenthetically, if Mark Mapletoft had to get concussed and endure a statutory 21-day lay-off, he couldn't have picked a better time to do it, from Gloucester's point of view. We've suffered before from losing a key player just when things were getting important. Obviously, we don't like to see anyone get hurt, but if my arithmetic is right, the mercurial Mark should be available for the Cup game. Just.

There are some interesting times coming up however. The boys are away to Third Division leaders, Bedford, on Saturday, but United entertain Saracens, which is an attractive proposition. Then, on Monday the 5th, we have the prestigious New Zealand U21 match, followed by a visit from Coventry, now making a determined effort to get back to something like their former glories. on the following Friday.

That's the last home game before the Festive Season, Gloucester having been drawn away in the Cup. This year, sadly, we don't have the traditional Boxing Day visit from Lydney, although I'm told that there just may be some kind of Combination game here on that day. Still to be confirmed. However, we finish the holiday in time-honoured fashion, by welcoming Moseley on New Year's Eve. And there's another year gone.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Talking about Christmas, don't forget to ease some of your gift problems by calling in at the Club Shop. Come to think of it, if Alan Townsend and John Beaman were to be appropriately costumed, they wouldn't make a bad Father Christmas and Santa's Little Helper. Not that either of them is going to come down your chimney and distribute presents, but they'll be happy to sell you a very wide range of goodies, including everything from stocking-fillers on up.
Well worth a look.

TAILPIECE

We get phone calls, as well as letters. One day last week, Geraldine answered a call in the Office from a young lady who wanted to know when the next home game was. She was informed that we were expecting Bridgend on Friday evening.
"Oh, good!" came the reply. "Can anybody come?"
Oh, well. I rather suspect that some lucky player has a secret feminine admirer.



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Ed Martin

Just when, to paraphrase a financial journalist writing last week in the International Herald Tribune....Just when we might have thought Rupert Murdoch could not do much more to mold our culture, News Corp., his media conglomerate, revealed big plans for rugby league football.

Murdoch, whose cultural innovations have brought us The Sun, boobs on Page Three, Bart Simpson and the famous speech at a convention of television retailers when he pledged that he would never "encode" that bastion of all that's best in British television - Sky One, snapped up the domestic TV rights for club rugby union for his Sky Sports One and Two channels at the beginning of this season. He already had the TV rights to rugby league in Britain to fill one of his sports channels on a Friday evening.

Back to Australia... Mr. Murdoch is, as one would expect, a part of an almost £2billion plan to establish a 64-channel pay-television network. Another major partner in the project - the Telstra Corp. - is the Australian Government. Earlier this month, a plan was unveiled to effectively take control of what was called professional rugby (and note that the words "rugby league" were not used). And guess where the hard sell of the idea appeared - yes, in Mr. Murdoch's newspapers.

Meanwhile, back in France, there is a gentleman who is supposed to be inventing a game that is part union and party league. The powers that be po-pooed the scheme say that it was impossible. But it appears that Mr. Murdoch is interested in the idea of a brand new form of rugby.

If there is one television man who can incur the wrath of a lot of sports fans, it is Kerry Packer, who played around with cricket before inventing the Oz Soap. Mr. Packer owns the Nine Network which has the television rights for rugby league in Australia until 2000. He is not too pleased with Mr. Murdoch right now!

The big cheeses of both the league and union codes in Australia are reported to be gob-smacked, to coin a good old Sunism. While the scheme in Australia is indeed centred around the league clubs - Murdoch plans to form a "super league" and force the merger of several rival clubs - the union authorities are said to be watching the development with considerable alarm after realising the underlying implications of the

European proposals.

Now an American citizen, Mr. Murdoch owns a television network in North America - the Fox Network (after his company Twentieth Century Fox). This growing network is now a serious rival to ABC, CBS and NBC. Fox pulled off the unthinkable earlier this year when Murdoch outbid CBS for the rights to American Football - and even the guru of the sport's commentators, John Madden.

America is, of course, the wiz of the world when it comes to television controlling sport. No matter what we might say about the Beeb or commercial telly, traditional broadcasters have wanted to bring into our homes sports on the sports terms. But as anyone who went to see Gloucester's live debut on Sky at Harlequins the other week will know, there were thirty slight damp players waiting around for, it seemed, an eternity for Sky to be finish its ad break and be ready for the second half kickoff.

It is, of course, true that sports benefit greatly from selling the television rights - and this club is one that will gain with what could be called its biggest payday of all time when the Sky money is distributed. And of course there is the old adage that "he who pays the piper calls the tune".

The face of rugby might change out of all recognition in the next few years as television's appetite (especially from the satellite and cable channels) grows at an alarming rate. If a sport wants big bucks, then its "governing body" self destructs and becomes a puppet belonging to the television company. For less bucks, a sport can still be televised and retain control.

As much as we love to hate Mr. Murdoch, his Sky Network has brought innovations to television sports that are long overdue.

THAT result the other Saturday did rewrite the club record books. Yes, the 70-7 defeat was the worst in club history - but only if one didn't take inflation into account. If you convert the five goals and seven tries into 1904 values, Canterbury scored 46 points, two more than the All Blacks did at Kingsholm (44-0). Llanelli in 1988 scored 60 points against Gloucester. Convert the Canterbury score into 1988 values and the touring Kiwis scored 68 points. Make of that what you want!