

# GLOUCESTER

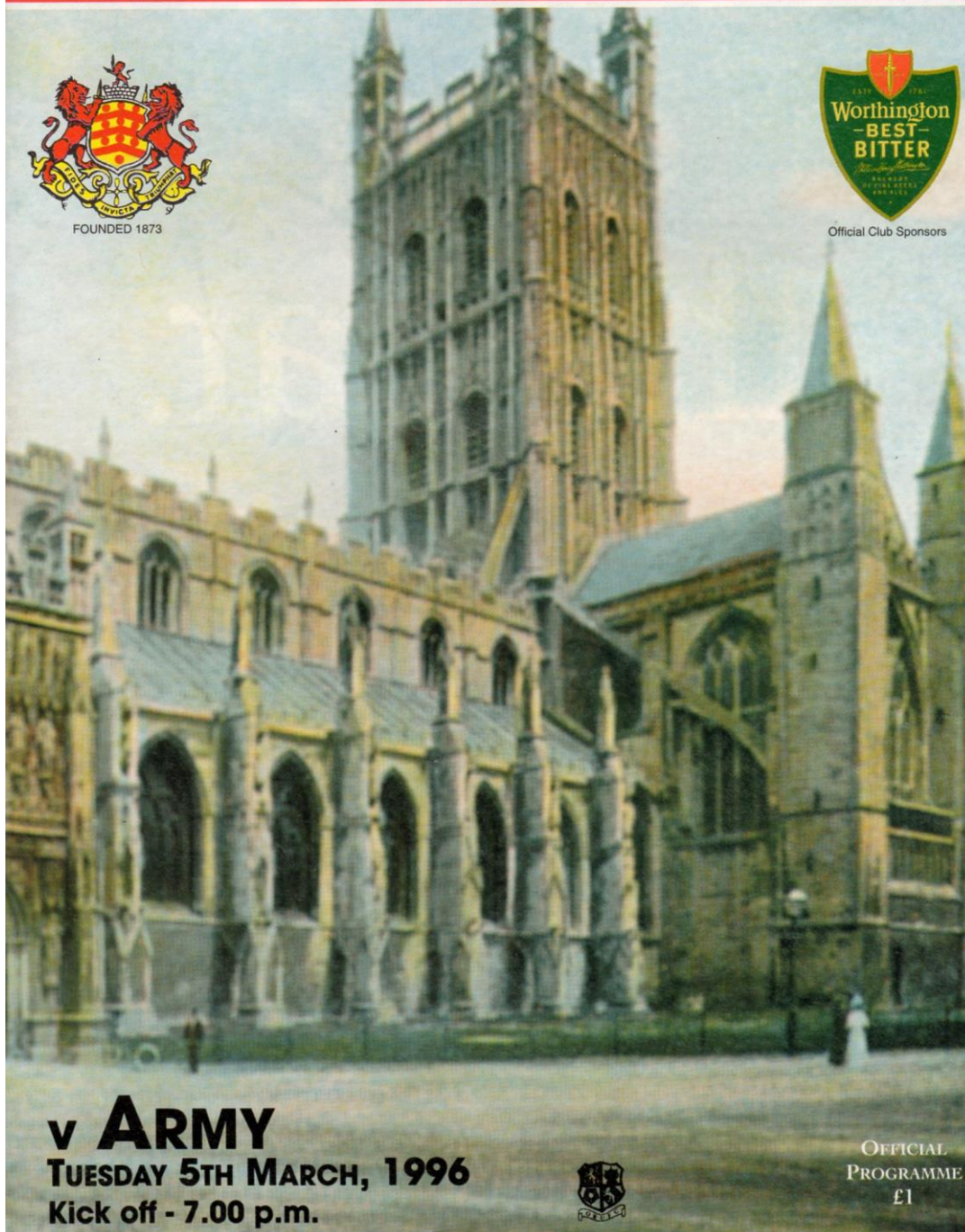
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**TUESDAY 5TH MARCH, 1996**  
**Kick off - 7.00 p.m.**



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Peter Arnold ...

## MARCH EVENING



Apart from pre-International Friday affairs, First XV evening games are by no means as thick on the ground as they used to be. That may seem odd, bearing in mind the highly sophisticated lighting systems available nowadays, but I suppose that the modern fixture pattern, and the need to give the players a reasonable rest before important Courage League matches, does militate against such occasions.

That's a pity, because we've had some highly enjoyable evenings over the years, against all sorts of opposition ranging from National, and even International sides to happy run-about against interesting touring parties from many parts of the globe. However, I imagine that the swelling tide of professionalism could well change things yet again. I notice that one or two major clubs have already started to talk about the need for markedly larger squads to cope with the increased demands made by such things as the proposed European Leagues.

This season, what's more, we have all seen what a couple of short, but critically timed, spells of bad weather can do to an already crowded fixture list. Some games may well have to be played under lights, midweek, and indeed, it does look as if our much postponed, delayed, negotiated and haggled over League fixture with Bath will take place under just such conditions.

No worries about that sort of thing this evening though. What we have here is a thoroughly enjoyable occasion against very welcome opposition. It's a while since we entertained what the RAF used to call 'The Brown Jobs', and it's nice to see them back here again. Ed Martin, no doubt, has a great deal of information to share about the long and honourable history of Gloucester v. The Army games, and I won't attempt to second-guess him, even if I were qualified so to do, which I'm not.

Services rugby doesn't really get the publicity, these days, which it used to, and probably deserves. There is no more competitively played competition in British rugby than the Inter Services Tournament, and if you want to see a hard-fought game, with no quarter asked or given, then I recommend you attend one of those occasions.

Gloucester has always had an Armed Forces dimension, somewhere in its background. Indeed, at one point, in the days of John Orwin and the like, we had so many RAF personnel on our books that on some occasions they were called '633 Squadron', and greeted on to the field to a chorus of the 'Dam Busters March'.

But it hasn't all been the fly-boys, in spite of our proximity to RAF Innsworth. At least one Gloucester soldier died in the trenches in the First World War. Doctor Tom Durkin's lads played for the Royal Navy.

And the service connection goes way back. Digger Morris once told me that his favourite Kingsholm game of all time was a fixture against the New Zealand Combined Services, just after the War. They were an All Black side in all but name, although the Digger, never one for frills and fancies, referred to them as "That Kiwi outfit."



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"I got a knock in the first half, and don't remember much about it.", he reminisced. "After half time, I came round a bit, and I dropped one of their chaps on his head. I had four of them onto me after that. It was a bloody smashing game!"

More senior supporters will also recall that Devonport Services and United Services, Portsmouth used to be regular, and appreciated, visitors. They will also remember that Devonport could be very serious opposition indeed, in those days, and took quite a bit of beating, even by the best side Gloucester could muster.

I suppose that such games as this one have to be under threat from the rapidly-changing structure and ethos of the game. Personally, that's something I regret, because, no matter how preoccupied we are at the moment, with survival in Division One, there is life outside the Courage League, and we'd be losing something if we didn't remember that.

On that note, I'll content myself with welcoming the Army side, together with all their cohorts, to Kingsholm this evening, and I'm sure you'll join me in hoping they have a highly enjoyable visit, on the pitch, in the Clubhouse, and indeed, around the various excellent hostelrys adjoining the ground in all directions.

### THAT BATH BUSINESS

At the time of writing - just before the week-end - I can't give you any firm news about the much-discussed date for our postponed Courage League game against Bath, here at Kingsholm, except that it won't take place next Saturday. As you probably know by now, the RFU, in their wisdom, have eventually accepted Bath's plea about players on England squad training duties, and it's all back in the melting pot again.

I'm tempted to quote the late, and fondly remembered Arthur Russell, who did this job for years. He used to say that 'the ways of the RFU are like the Peace of God. They passeth all understanding'.

All I know is that it's time this club versus England training issue was sorted out. In these professional days, I don't see why the Squad have to train on a Saturday, anyway. It isn't as if everyone has to clock on at the local factory on Monday mornings any more, is it?

As I write, it looks as if the Bath game will have to be played under lights, possibly on a Wednesday in April. Even that would give us some problems, notably with the car park, but needs must when Jack Rowell drives.

As to the other game, the Pilkington Cup Semi Final at Bath, things are much more clear cut. The date is Saturday, March 23rd, but as I note that Sky intend to cover both Semi Finals, I suppose there could be a variation to the usual 3.00pm kick-off. Don't take that too seriously, however. That's just me speculating.

Tickets should be available by now. They are priced at £8.00, Ground (£6.00 seniors and juniors under 18), East Stand and West Ringside, £11.00, with no concessions, Teachers and West Stand, £12.00, with no concessions, either.

They will be on sale to Members only until Saturday next, March 9th, after which they go on general sale. But please note, all unsold tickets have to be returned to Bath on Friday, March 15th, so you don't have all that much time to acquire yours. And it would be a shame to send any back, wouldn't it?

Coaches have been arranged too. They leave Kingsholm at 11.30am, and a ticket will cost you £4.50. You are asked to pay when you book, because that makes life much easier for the stewards on the bus.

As Bob Borge points out, we took five coaches to Nottingham, and we're both sure we can do much better than that for Bath. It's to be hoped so. The more noise we can make at The Rec, the better it is for the boys doing the business out on the field.

Should be quite an occasion. Especially after we win.

### AND THERE ARE OTHERS GETTING INTO THE ACT

Had you realised that, as of now, March 5th, there could be no less than three local sides at Twickenham this season ? Old Centralians have a tricky one against Newcastle Medicals in the Pilkington Shield Semi Finals, but I, for one, aren't going to write them off. Gloucestershire only have to get past one more hurdle to make the Final of the County Championship.

Best of British to everyone ! Wouldn't it be great to do the 'triple' ?

### HAPPY SNAPS FROM HICKEY



It's very nice to be able to print this photograph, taken at the recent Orrell game. It's quite an achievement, I thought, to be able to show the entire Gloucester pack, plus Scott Benton at scrum-half, and also get our famous Cathedral into the shot as well.

The picture is the work of Tony Hickey who specialises, although not exclusively, on sporting occasions, with special reference to rugby, and especially the life and works of Gloucester RFC.

Tony, who lives at Brockworth, is a thorough professional, as I have reason to know. For example, on the day of the Cup match against Wasps, he was in Plymouth, mid-morning, but was still here, lens akimbo, in time for the kick-off.

I mention all this because you could, if you wish, acquire some examples of Tony's art and craft yourself, if you've a mind to. In fact, he has a system for it. Here's what happens.

Tony usually has his colour prints back from the processors sometime on Monday. He then puts them into attractive mounts, and drops them into the club office. Anyone who fancies one can have it for the princely sum of £3.00. I'm told that his best customers are the players themselves, who tend to half-inch the prints as soon as they get their mitts on them. And why not ?

Any which don't find a fairly quick sale are taken along to the club shop, where they add yet another product to the burgeoning range of goodies already on sale there.



It's good to see Tony Hickey operating in this sort of way. He's filling a gap in the Gloucester sporting scene which has existed since the much-missed Terry Beckett passed on, a few years ago.

More power to your elbow, Tony Hickey. We need you.

### SHOP !

Mention of our club shop prompts me to remind you that we do have a string of highly important matches coming along. Wasps, Leicester and Harlequins, away in the League, not to mention that stormer at Bath, in the Cup Semi Final. At home, we have Bristol, Bath again and Saracens, all vital to our future status.

As a well brought-up Gloucester gentleman, or lady, you'll want to be fittingly dressed for all these occasions, and in that context, Messrs. Townsend and Brown, outfitters to the gentry, whose emporium nestles neatly at the Worcester Street end, make Saville Row look like Uncle Alf's nearly new stall.

May I respectfully suggest that you pay them a visit, and kit yourself out appropriately ? After all, there's nothing like a sea of cherry-and-white to intimidate an opposing side as they run out on to the field.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ELVERS ?

Where did that phrase 'Cherry-and-Whites' come from anyway ? It does appear to be a fairly recent phenomenon. As far as I am concerned, Gloucester's hoary, traditional nickname was always 'The Elver Eaters'.

I do like the new electronic gismo on the front of the stands, but I do wish it would read 'WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM, HOME OF THE ELVER EATERS, rather than referring to that Johnny-come-lately and very unimaginative 'cherry-and-white'. After all, Painswick could claim that same nickname, and have been wearing the strip for longer than us, so have more right to it.

Anyway, we could well be doing a service to the conservation issue by reverting to our earlier cognomen. The way things are going, what with expense, foreign predations and now oil slicks from Wales, the phrase 'The Elver Eaters' could soon be the last vestige of the little wrigglers.

Actually, in the thirties, we did have another nickname. It was prevalent around South Wales, and especially in the Cardiff area, where we were known as the 'Gloucester Pigs'. It was a reference, they say, to the Gloucester Old Spot pigs, which were farmed extensively around those parts at one time. I have me doots, however.

### ...AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CLOCK ?

Yeah. What has happened to the clock ?

*continued on page 20*

## THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

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## HOW PETE WILSON SEES IT



My friend Pete Wilson, who you may know as half of 'The Wilsons' show on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, on Saturday mornings, probably sees more Gloucester games than most of us. Sees them, but not necessarily hears them because he's usually got a pair of bins - headphones to the uninitiated - clamped firmly over his ear'oles. In fact, he has a bust Saturday, having to dash to Kingsholm from wherever his wife, Sue, has sent him to in the morning, there to take charge of the technical magic required to provide radio coverage of the match.

Having a somewhat unusual perspective on the game, I thought he'd be a good bloke to ask to write this page for me. This he has done, and I'm hugely grateful, but I do note that, being Pete, he couldn't resist a commercial at the end.

Incidentally, I love 'Richer Dill', a good piece of Glawster, if ever I've heard one.

As someone whose hobby is working for BBC Radio Gloucestershire, I see it from the best possible seat in Kingsholm.

In the main stand, centrally positioned, just above where the players run out. I get an unobstructed view of everything that goes on (Blimey I could be given the job of timekeeper if I'm not careful).

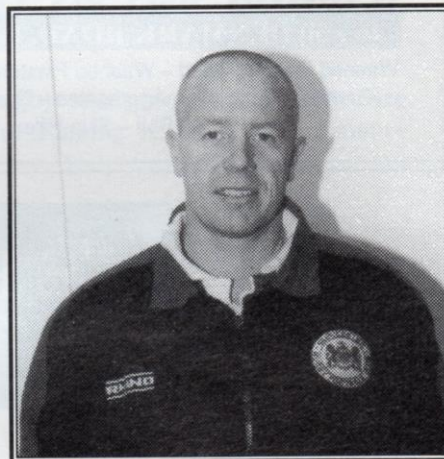
Now who'd have thought, before Christmas, that our beloved Cherry-and-Whites would be unbeaten in the New Year to date, well it's happened.

What a transformation! We all knew it was there somewhere, and isn't it wonderful to see. The question is though, why?

Could it be the psychologist, could it be 'Richer Dill', could it just be the confidence that comes from winning, or is it simply the win bonuses (there weren't many of those paid before Christmas).

Whatever it is, who cares.

Just to hear the shed bawling "Glawster, Glawster" leaves a warm, satisfied feeling in my stomach (a bit like a good single malt).



'Richer Dill'

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Now what about this so called klaxon which is sounded by the official timekeeper to signal the end of the first half and the end of the game (when the ball goes dead of course). I'm not a lover of it.

Firstly from what I've seen games will end a lot later and that'll mean everyone gets to the bar later than normal, secondly I see it as the reason for the clock on the old changing rooms not being repaired as the players aren't able to tell how much time's left now, and thirdly I'm worried for the health of the timekeeper because, unlike my unobstructed view from the stand, he has to be at the side of the pitch with his air horn, freezing to death.

How long's it going to be before some wag in front of the stand turns up with his air horn and causes chaos at the end of a game? Not too long I'll bet.

Well I hope today's is a good game with plenty of points and a real confidence builder ready for the challenges ahead, and of course if it's happening at home or away you'll get the full details first from BBC Radio Gloucestershire on 104.7 FM around the county, 95 FM in and around Stroud and 95.8 FM in the Cirencester area.

Thankyou for the chance to contribute to the programme for the first time. I hope it's not the last.

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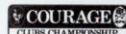
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- T 10. Damian Cummins  
9. Charlie Mulraine

1. Adey Powles  
2. John Hawker  
3. Phil Vickery  
4. Rob Fidler P. B. C. L.  
T 5. Richard West  
6. Herbert Conradie  
7. Nathan Carter  
8. Colin Carter C. P. S. S. N.

Replacements:  
Hilton Brown  
Dave Sims  
Bruce Fenley  
Tim Smith

7-0  
10-0  
13-0  
13-5  
18-5  
25-05  
25-12  
25-17  
32-17  
32-24  
39-24  
39-31

Referee: S. Terheege  
North Mids Society

Touch Judges:  
B. Mullis & A. Biggs  
Glos. Society

## ARMY

15. R. Abernethy T  
14. B. Johnson T  
13. M. Sanger  
12. C. Waggett CC  
11. H. Graham TT

10. P. Knowles C  
9. S. Pinder

1. S. Stewart  
2. J. Brammer  
3. M. Stewart  
4. D. Dahinton  
5. A. Newsham  
6. R. Hunter T  
7. G. Powell  
8. N. Richardson

Replacements:  
L. Douglas  
M. Watters  
G. Morgan  
C. Wood  
D. Cogan  
D. Orr Ewing



*Peter Arnold (cont.)...*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO VIRGIL

Many felicitations to Virgil Hartland who has won his first England Colts Cap against Italy. Great to see another Gloucester name on our list of Internationals, at whatever level. We all hope it's the first sign of a glittering career on the horizon.

Come to think of it, that name 'Virgil' must have gone down well with the Italians. Wasn't the Roman poet of the same name the guy who wrote 'Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes' ? which loosely translates as 'I fear Greeks bearing gifts'

I'm not inferring that our Virgil has any Greek ancestry, but I do know that an awful lot of aspiring young props have good reason to fear Gloucester's young Mister Hartland.

### GOOD GAME TOMORROW

I've just heard that we have a very attractive game, right here, tomorrow afternoon, kick-off 2.30. We are hosting Loughborough Colleges against Swansea University in the UAU Semi Final. (Seems to be our year for Semi Finals).

If you have nothing else on, or can skive off for an hour or two, it could be worth coming along.

### TAILPIECE

A piece in the Mark Cummins afternoon show on BBC Radio Gloucestershire might have amused you, the other Friday.

One of Mark's guests was a young chap from Indiana, who was billed as a leading light in FOSIL, which is apparently, the South Indiana equivalent of our own CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. That being so, it seemed a good idea to pour him into a car with Martin Kirby, and send him off around one or two local pubs, to see how he liked the beer.

One such stop occurred at 'One Eyed Jacks' in Barton Street, where, at that time, but sadly no longer, they were selling an ale called 'Jacks' at £1 a pint. Behind the bar was Mike Phillips, who plays for Old Cryptians, who was delighted to supply him with a pint of said brew, of which young Drew approved.

Our friend from the Revolting Colonies then received the following information.

"We're glad you liked it, because it's a rather special brew. To start with, it's brewed on the premises." (broad grin from Mr. Phillips.)

"Furthermore, if you look around the car park on your way back to the car, you'll notice that they have their own hop vines, which they use in the process" (Stifled mirth from Mr. Phillips)

"And the water, which as you know is critical in brewing any beer, comes from a rather special source. It comes from the run-off from the showers at the Old Cryptians Rugby Football Club." (Complete collapse of Mr Phillips.)

And, do you know, our American Cousin still had to be told that he was having his leg pulled !.

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## Ed Martin ...

It has been many seasons since the Army has sent its team to Kingsholm - it was on January 19, 1977 to be precise when the Soldiers last appeared here. And that was also the last time a military side came to these parts, unless you count the Bucharest team packed with Rumanian military types that visited in September 1978.

That January encounter was the 20th in a series with Gloucester that started on January 8, 1948 when a star-studded Army side was shown just how tough a game at Kingsholm could be - Gloucester gaining an impressive 25-9 victory.

No less than six full internationals helped to make-up the Army fifteen that day - and there was also a trialist in the side. The "all-international" back row featured Lt. A.G.M. Watt (Scotland), Capt. F.H. Coutts (Scotland) and Capt. D.F. White (England). At fly half was Officer Cadet Glyn Davies (Wales), and completing the internationals were the centre Capt. Jack Matthews (Wales) and right winger Capt. T.G.H. Jackson the Gloucestershire-born Scottish international who played centre for Scotland. For good measure, Lt. J.M.H. Roberts, the Welsh trialist, was at full back.

The Army team were, of course for those days, all officers. So that meant that Gloucester could play Warrant Officer E. Beavan whose career with The Gloucestershire Regiment allowed him to make 30 appearances at wing forward for Gloucester in the 1946/47 and 1947/48 seasons.

Gloucester scored four tries that day - Tom Price, Bill Moreland, Steve Davies and Ken Daniell all crossed the Army line while Willie Jones kicked three conversions, a penalty and a drop goal. Stilemen, a late replacement to the announced team, scored all the Army points - two tries and a penalty. In all, Gloucester and the Army have met on 20 occasions - all matches being played at Kingsholm, with Gloucester winning 10 times, the Army seven occasions and three

matches were drawn. All told, Gloucester out-scored the Army 261-198.

Of the three Service teams, the Royal Air Force were the most regular visitors to Kingsholm. Their first visit was in March 1926 and fixtures were dropped after the visit of March 10, 1971. In all, 31 matches were played with Gloucester having the upper hand with 24 wins against seven by the Airmen.

The most successful of the full Service teams to come to Kingsholm, in terms of winning percentages, was the Royal Navy. Just four matches were played between 1956 and 1965 that produced two wins apiece. The only time that Gloucester have ever played away to a full Service team was in January 1936 against the Royal Navy - and that was an 8-8 draw.

There have only been three occasions when Gloucester have played all three full Service teams in a season - 1956/57, 1958/59 and 1964/65. The 1958/59 saw the Services sweep Gloucester - 3-0 win by Army, 20-12 win by Navy and 19-16 win by Air Force. But in 1964, Gloucester claimed the clean sweep against the Services - 21-11 against Army, 36-3 against Air Force and 13-12 against Navy. The 1956/57 season saw a 6-3 Army win, and 8-6 Air Force win, but a 10-0 Gloucester win against Navy.

There have, of course, been many other matches against service teams - the first on record at Kingsholm is the visit of United Services in 1908/05, when Gloucester went on the rampage to win 51-3. Next in were the Second Glosters in 1910 (a 14-0 win for Gloucester). There have been 48 fixtures with Devonport Services, 32 with United Services, four with the Gloucestershire Regiment and a string of single fixtures with Army regiments and corps, including the Royal Tank Corps in 1927/28 and the East Yorkshire Regiment in the war-shortened 1939/40 season.