



EBBW VALE

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Season 1984-85

Eugene Cross Park



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17th 1984 KICK OFF 7 p.m.

EBBW VALE v GLOUCESTER

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 25p

WELSH BITTER.

EBBW VALE

Andrew Hawkes	15
Mike Owen	14
Steve Lewis	13
Derek Davies	12
David Evans	11
Mike Rees	10
Kim Norkett	9
Malcolm Sibthorpe	1
Brian Clarke	2
Mel Cooper	3
Chris Coughlin	4
Wayne Matthews	5
David Fryer	6
Carl Dennehy	8
John Howells	7

Replacements

Steve Cook, Gareth Davies

v

GLOUCESTER

Paul Ford
Andy Richards
(Capt) Paul Taylor
Rus Ellis
Nick Price
Mike Hamlyn
Marcus Hannaford
Peter Jones
Kevin White
Richard Pascall
Nigel Scrivens
John Bryan
John Gadd
Laurie Cummings
Ian Smith

Replacements

Glynn Mann, Ray Wood

Referee: Mr Clive Norling (Swansea)

Match Sponsor: John Bowles (Windows) Ltd.

Match Ball Sponsor: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

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CLUB NOTES ...

We extend a warm welcome to Gloucester for tonight's game. After being defeated at Glamorgan Wanderers, Swansea and Pontypridd, we go into tonight's match having won our last three matches. The win over Penarth was our first of the season against first class opposition and a number of players made their debuts for the club on permit. The win against Bridgend came from an excellent team performance. The forwards showed great determination and stormed into the rucks and mauls. The threequarters tackled firmly and harried the opposition. Bridgend, fielding four full Welsh internationals, were never allowed to settle and by the end were a well beaten side. Brian Clark and Jonathan Jenkins scored their first tries for the club. In contrast, the game at Cross Keys was a drab affair and was only won in the last few minutes. The forwards were going strongly at the end of the game and the team showed a determination to win that bodes well, however, if we are to regain a place in the forefront of Welsh rugby then we must learn how to cope with such as Cross Keys.

On the club scene, the '200' Club held its Annual Dinner at the Clubhouse last Friday. Clive Norling, the referee for tonight's game, was guest speaker and made an excellent speech and enlightened his audience as to the origins of the role of the referee. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. On the question of referees, it must be said that Clive Norling is without doubt the best referee in Wales at the present moment and it will be to compare his style of refereeing to that shown in the Bridgend game by Mr. Alan Welsby, the English international referee.

Next home match
Bedford Saturday 20th October 1984. K.O. 3.00 p.m.

COVER PIC: Vice Captain Kim Norkett evades Graham Price and Mark Jones of Pontypool, September 8th 1984. Photograph by courtesy of the "South Wales Argus".

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RUGBY'S GLORIOUS GLOSTERS

Drivers of coaches occupied by Welsh rugby teams have often experienced late nights in deepest Gloucestershire. Meandering along narrow lanes with a bus load of well oiled players is not the best way to end a hard day. Some have got lost which recalls the comment of the Earl of Northumberland in "Richard II", when asked by Bolingbroke how far it was to Berkeley. Stuck in the Wolds, the northern Lord replied, "I am a stranger here in Gloucestershire. These high wild hills and rough uneven ways draw out our miles and make them wearisome."

Gloucester players and supporters will reckon that the high, wild hills are on the western side of the Severn but they can find their way into Wales as well as we can find our way to Kingsholm. This season Gloucester have already played seven Welsh clubs, four of them in Wales.

Richard II, the Quasimodo of his day, was the son of a Welshman and would have had dual qualifications. There have been many such characters and some like the present Chairman of the English selectors, Derek Morgan, chose the Rose and not the Feathers. Stuart Barnes, a native of Gwent, hopes to play for England this season and our scrum-half Kim Norkett who played for the English Students is also eligible to play for both countries — for Wales because of his ability and competitiveness and for England because he sometimes talks posh.

That's what the props reckon but Gloucester players who have shone for County and Country rarely talked posh and we rate them highly. Their approach to the game is similar to our own and there can be no doubt of their competitiveness, particularly when playing before their supporters who wear Cherry and White underclothes and follow them so loyally.

Dual qualifications bring desperate selectors to the door. They missed the prop from Rhymney whose mother played Bingo for Wales and whose father was a jeep driver from Alabama, but many years ago it took a little man a long time to throw in his lot with England.

Dai Gent was from Llandovery who trained at Cheltenham College and found a job in Gloucester. He joined the English rugby scene, and the Gloucester club, because he couldn't get into a Swansea side that had Dickie Owen at scrum-half. That was in the first Welsh Golden Era but Dai Gent was capped for England against the 1905 All-Blacks and in partnership with the legendary Adrian Stoop played in the first match at Twickenham when England scored from the Welsh kick-off and won 11-6.

Gent was a notable rugby writer for 36 years and would have been amused that in 1984 there was correspondence in the "Western Mail" as to who actually kicked off in that 1910 match. This passion over rugby is something men of Gloucester understand for theirs is the only genuine rugby County in England. We do not include Cornwall for the natives there do not reckon they are in England anyway.

Gloucestershire is affectionately remembered by several members of our Club who fought for King and Country in the cycle stores of RAF Innsworth or the Naafi at RAF Brize Norton. In between holding off the dreaded Hun and local Land Army girls, they played a lot of rugby. Some like Alan Foster turned out for the RAF in the Inter-Services and so will be interested to know that this year's Gloucester captain is one Corporal Orwin. He played with one of our former players, Graham Still, in last season's Inter-Services which ended in a Triple Tie. The Army won the drinking play-off.

During the summer four Gloucester forwards went with England to South Africa and must sometimes have wished they were lost, like Northumberland, back in the Wolds. The Republic is a hard place to win a match and only England have done that among the four Home Countries. That was in 1972 and Gloucester had three representatives including the well known travel expert, Mike Burton whose motto is 'Have Boots and Balls, Will Travel.'

Mike was a prop and a half and would be interested in some of our young front row men. Brian Clarke has joined from Abergavenny and his dazzling 70 metre run from the Bristol 22 led to a try he has bored everyone with since. Peter Hrastelj has been picked for Poland and Ian Watkins would have been a Barbarian but for an injury. Meanwhile a prop from Rhymney, not the one with relatives in Alabama, played his 100th game early in September, an event missed by the media. He didn't mind for he has his own fan club and she thinks he's simply wonderful.

Very soon, Garry Lawrence will play his 300th game for Ebbw Vale. When he does he should be modelled in gold for his great service. The young backs consider him the bastion of the side, just as the young bucks in Abergavenny consider him the bastion of the Police. That's an interesting word, bastion. It's the word Gary used when Kim Norkett missed a winning try by inches at Pontypridd.

Dai Gent was Gloucester's second international who had to be skilful and elusive for he was only 5'3" and 9 st. 7 lbs. ringing wet. He believed that rugby football is a blend of vigour and skill, restraint and risk. The last two fixtures between our Clubs were good examples of those qualities. Two years ago we beat Gloucester here 45-18 and last season lost at Kingsholm 14-9.

On both occasions rugby football won.

R.E.L.

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