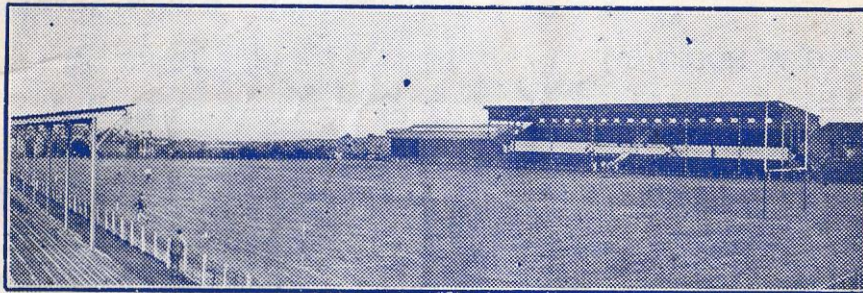


# **BRISTOL** **FOOTBALL**

RUGBY **CLUB** FOOTBALL UNION.

## **SPECIAL SILVER JUBILEE PROGRAMME**

**PRICE - 3d.**



(Bristol Evening World Photo.)

## **BRISTOL v. GLOUCESTER**

**Saturday, September 28th, 1946      Kick-off 3.15 p.m.**

### **OUR VISITORS.**

It is most fitting that our visitors this afternoon should be our old rivals and friends from Gloucester. Here in the West Country, Gloucester and Bristol have maintained for many years the highest standards of Rugby Football. Either of them have been capable of beating the best club sides in the Four Countries. United they trounce the other counties, separated the rivalry is intense, the result always in doubt. From the first match between the two cities on 24th September, 1892, there have been very few occasions on which many points have separated the two teams at No-Side. Yet two matches come back into memory, Gloucester beat Bristol on 22nd October, 1904, at Kingholm, by 24 points to 6, and on 6th October, 1928, with M. Shaw as Captain, Bristol beat Gloucester at Bristol, by 19 points to 3. We are prepared for a stirring game this afternoon. Let Bristol find an answer to the rushes of the formidable Gloucester pack—and what grand fellows those Gloucester forwards always are—and we shall have as memorable a game as we had when the Memorial Ground was opened twenty-five years ago.

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## **GEORGES'**

**BRISTOL'S BRIGHTEST BEERS**

(Reprinted from the "Bristol Evening Post," 21st September, 1946.)

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ON THE MEMORIAL GROUND.

"Bristol Rugby Football Club celebrate this month the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Memorial Ground, and 'Old Crusader,' who is proud of the fact that he was made a Life Member of the Club last year, and also that he had the honour of playing for them forty-three years ago, recalls this epoch-making event and passes in review some of the happenings since that time.

"Twenty-five years ago! It does not seem so long ago as that, or anything like it, since the great day, 24th September, 1921, when the Memorial Ground was officially opened, very appropriately, with a match against Cardiff, who were handsomely defeated by 19 points to 3.

"To transform what was originally known as Buffalo Bill's Field into one of the finest Rugby grounds in the country was a tremendous and very expensive task, and could not have been accomplished without the generosity (and man-power) of the President, the late Sir Francis Cowlin, the late Mr. Conrad R. Cowlin, and Mr. James Tucker, guarantors, and the services of the hon. architect, the late Mr. James Hart, coupled with the hard work of the members of the committee over a long period.

"There have been great changes since that memorable day, and others of those responsible for the success of the great adventure have passed away, but the Memorial Ground still stands as a lasting tribute to all Rugby players who made the supreme sacrifice in the first Great War, as set forth on the tablet on the main entrance gates:

### 1914-18

"In proud and grateful Memory of the services rendered to their country in the Great War by the Rugby Football Players of Bristol, this ground was established, 1921."

"I am very pleased that the committee propose to add the following:

"And in the World War of 1939-45 the Rugby Football Players of this City gave their services and their lives. To them also this ground is a Memorial.

"There could not have been more fitting opponents than Cardiff for the opening game, as the Welsh Metropolitans were the first club Bristol ever played in 1888, but on that occasion the match was at Cardiff, and Bristol lost by 5 goals 9 tries, which, in those days, totalled only 24 points.

"Reg. Pickles was the Captain in the 1921 game, and he was a very proud man when he led his side on the field to gain a great victory in the presence of a huge and enthusiastic crowd.

"The team that day was composed of W. B. Wregg, R. G. B. Quick, L. J. Corbett, R. C. W. Pickles, H. L. Feltham, S. H. Budd, W. J. Wring, M. V. Shaw, J. S. Tucker, P. J. Williams, A. T. Hore, F. Cummings, F. J. Coventry, E. Kibbey, W. G. Bryant.

"I fancy I can hear Rugby followers exclaim: 'Ah, those were the days. We saw some real Rugby then.'

"It is quite true that Bristol were fortunate in enjoying the services of a number of outstanding players about this period, notably Len Corbett, Reg. Pickles, Reg. Quick, Tom Spoons, Billy Wring, Stanley Budd, Cecil Carter, Sam Tucker, Mervyn Shaw, and Fred. Coventry, and had strong claims to being the best club side—well balanced, speedy, and enterprising—in the country. They played attractive football and accomplished many brilliant performances.

"I have mentioned these named—and there are many others—as they came to memory, to show that as players disappear others arise from time to time to fill the vacancies, and that is why there is every reason for optimism from a playing point of view. There are still plenty of good fish in the sea.

"Bristol have always been fortunate in another respect—their officers. For many years they had an ideal President in Sir Francis Cowlin, and now that he is gone, they have as his successor a man whose heart and soul are in the Club—George Babbage.

"When he took office as Hon. Treasurer in 1927–28, there was still a debt of £8,000 on the ground (which cost £26,000), but this, happily, was cleared off in 1931. A further heavy debt, the cost of improvements and additions, incurred later, was practically removed, and though the Club has this year been called upon by the Home Office to make costly alterations, Jim Bryan has taken over office as Treasurer when the financial position is sound. There was a time when Bristol had 4,000 members. Why not again?

"In regard to the all-important position of Secretary, the Club has also been extremely fortunate in enjoying the services of A. J. Owens Britton, who, in an honorary capacity, has done invaluable work over a period of twenty-four years.

"Others, who have done, and are still doing fine work, include Lionel Burland, Hon. Sec. of the United and fixture secretary, and Percy Williams (whose services in connection with the Supporters' Club will long be remembered), the purveyor of news to the press.

"Summed up, I may say that Bristol may justifiably look back on the past quarter of a century with pride and satisfaction as a period in which great strides have been made and the Club placed right in the forefront of Rugby football and may look forward with the fullest confidence to the future."

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## BRISTOL

V. H. THOMPSON (A)

G. E. GREEN (B)

D. DOBSON (C)

J. E. HARRIS (D)

E. R. COOMBS (E)

G. A. HOLLIS (F)

L. E. KING (G)

*Full Back*

*Three-quarters—*

*Left Wing*

*Left Centre*

*Right Centre*

*Right Wing*

*Half-backs—*

*Stand-off*

*Scrum*

## GLOUCESTER

W. HOOK (1)

C. CRABTREE (2)

P. NICHOLLS (3)

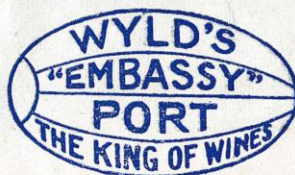
H. BURROWS (4)

S. DANGERFIELD (5)

W. E. JONES (6)

D. D. EVANS (7)

Referee :



C. H. GADNEY  
(London Soc., Referees)

J. J. WATKINS (H)

F. HILL (I)

G. GIBBS (J)

E. McCALL (K)

D. J. EVANS (L)

J. PRIEST (M)

A. MEREDITH (Capt.) (N)

L. J. GRIFFIN (O)

*Forwards*

*Colours—Blue and White*

T. DAY (8)

J. HOPSON (9)

BRYAN DAVIES (10)

R. MORRIS (Capt.) (11)

S. SMART (12)

J. THORNTON (13)

H. THORNTON (14)

G. HUDSON (15)

*Colours—Cherry and White*

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## TO-DAY'S BAND.

The band to-day is that of the 9th Glos. (City of Bristol Batt.) Army Cadet Corps. Please give generously to the Cadets who are collecting on behalf of the Battalion Band and Welfare Fund. Any lads between the ages of 14 and 18 who wish to join the Cadet Force can obtain particulars from Horfield Barracks any Wednesday or Friday evening, after 7.30 p.m.

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## OUR PRESIDENT'S DINNER.

To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the opening of the Memorial Ground, Mr. George Babbage, our President, gave a dinner to the Club players and officials, on Monday, 23rd September, at the Grand Hotel. During the evening, he announced with great pleasure, that the following gentlemen had been made Honorary Life Members of the Club for their services to Rugby Football generally and to the Bristol Club particularly : Messrs. T. Barrow, A. H. Croot, C. H. W. Davey, H. G. Forse, W. G. Levy Landfield, R. G. B. Quick and J. S. Tucker. Not entirely due to the excellent dinner, all the speakers spoke optimistically of the future of the Club.

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**Next Matches—Wednesday, October 2nd, 1946. Bristol v. Clifton.**

**Kick-off 5.30 p.m. All Pay.**

**Saturday, October 5th, 1946. Bristol United v. Clifton College.**

**Kick-off 3.15 p.m.**