We extend a warm welcome this evening to our visitors, our neighbours from Stroud. They have had great success in their local ‘derbies’ so far this season, and have double victories over Cheltenham and Lydney to their credit. Their win over the Red and Whites at Stroud last December (only the second defeat there that we have suffered) gives them the opportunity to secure the double over us too, and no doubt they will go all out to achieve this distinction. If they do succeed it will be the first time they will have managed this feat in the history of the two clubs. Gloucester will be out to avenge their previous defeat and the ground advantage should certainly help them, as in the 34 matches between the two sides played here, they have won 30 to Stroud’s 3, with one game drawn, and on three occasions have scored 40 or more points against our visitors.
TO-DAY'S REFEREE

Mr. O. D. GARDNER (Bristol Society)

THE FRONT AND SERVICE OF THE GROUND IS VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED BY
THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER DIVISION ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

STROUD

Full Back
1 G. HALE

Threequarters
2 J. TAGG
3 D. WHITING
4 D. MATTHEWS
5 E. WILLIAMS

Half Backs
6 A. J. MOORE
7 R. SIMMONDS

Forwards
8 R. FOWKE
9 R. CLOAKE
10 M. MINET
11 A. ASHER
12 P. J. MARRIOTT
13 D. HARTLEY
14 R. C. DAINTY
15 T. P. SHILL

GLOUCESTER

Full Back
1 S. INGRAM

Threequarters
2 E. WAKEFIELD
3 M. SHEEN (Capt.)
4 A. HOLDER
5 W. BLAIR

Half Backs
6 D. J. JONES
7 M. BOOTH

Forwards
8 J. HERBERT
9 E. THOMAS
10 D. SOLOMON
11 R. A. CLARK
12 R. J. GREEN
13 B. JONES
14 V. H. LEADBETTER
15 M. CRAGGS

*International x County

FIRST XV. FIXTURES

1957

Jan. 5 London Scottish ........... H 9-5
10 Armit .......... ........ A 6-3
18 Bath .......... ........ H 6-3
25 Oxford University .......... H 3-11
31 Royal Navy .......... ........ H 3-11

Feb. 2 Bristol .......... ........ H 3-1
7 (M. Conolly v. L. Jones (Lord's Test) ........ H 3-1
11 Bach .......... ........ A 0-11
14 Sommers .......... ........ A 0-11
Mar. 2 Northam .......... ........ H 9-3
9 L.M.P. .......... ........ H 9-3
16 Carlisle .......... ........ H 3-11
23 Carlisle .......... ........ A 3-9
26 Newcastle .......... ........ H 9-3
Apr. 4 Manchester .......... ........ A 39-0
10 Cheltenham .......... ........ A 3-11
41 Carlisle .......... ........ H 7-1
11 Broom .......... ........ H 9-3
20 New Brighton .......... ........ H 9-3
27 Loweston .......... ........ A
29 Devonport Services .......... H
30 Wrexham .......... ........ A

Next Saturday we shall be entertaining New Brighton,
the Cheshire team who appeared here for the first time in
1954-55, when we won a closely fought game by 11 pt. to 6.
REFLECTIONS

The eagerly awaited clash with Cardiff, the leading Welsh side, had a disappointing outcome. After the great performances against Newport and Harlequins, and our best win over Cheltenham for some years, the Red and Whites had great expectations of repeating their successes of 1951-52 and 1952-53, but they displayed little of their previous form. Cardiff won a major share of the scrums and line-outs, and though it was a disappointment to many that Cliff Morgan and Lloyd Williams were absent, they had two very capable deputies in Colin Hewitt and B. Mark, the former making some of the best runs in the match. In contrast, the Gloucester backs lacked cohesion and resorted far too often to the kick ahead, which invariably gave the Cardiff full-back, A. Priday, the chance to prove what a fine player he is.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

During Easter Week, Kingsholm, as usual, will stage the Finals of the North Gloucester Combination Cup Matches. On Tuesday afternoon, Longlevens meet the Spartans in the Junior Final, and on Thursday evening Widden Old Boys meet the cup-holders, Gordon League, in the Senior Final.

On Saturday Gloucester meet Devonport Services in a re-arranged fixture due to the Services' ground being unfit owing to the heavy wear on it this season. This game will be preceded by Gloucester Boys v. Newport Boys.

SOCIAL CLUB

The Club is open from 2-30 p.m. Cups of Tea and Snacks may be obtained in the Tea Room adjoining the Club Room after the game.