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Welcome
to
Kingsholm



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GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

SALE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27th, 1993

KICK OFF 12 noon



Official Programme

£1.00

Peter Arnold

BRIGHT and EARLY

I've been coming to Kingsholm for more years than it is comfortable to remember, but I've seldom witnessed scenes in the front of the Stand to compare with those as the final whistle went last Saturday.

Normally impassive businessmen whooped and threw their programmes to the four winds. Respectable Welsh librarians capered unashamedly, emitting archaic and incomprehensible Celtic incantations. At least one elderly copywriter found himself cheering the lads in down by the touchline, apparently by a species of spontaneous teleportation, because he has no memory of how he got there.

All because Gloucester, with 14 men, had beaten Northampton in the Courage League with a display of sheer tenacity and determination, vastly different to anything we'd seen at Kingsholm all season.

All this isn't quite so irrelevant to today's proceedings as may appear at first thought. Sale are, at the moment, riding comfortably in the second spot in Division Two. Last week's Kingsholm victory, and the manner of it, makes it much more likely that Gloucester will avoid the indignity of relegation. Therefore, it could well be that the next time we see today's ever-welcome visitors at Kingsholm will be in a League game.

In fact, if the position remains equivocal, we may have to wait until the season is at its last gasp before we really know our fate. As you probably know, London Irish, who seem certain to be in the shake-up for relegation honours, cancelled their League game against Wasps because of International calls the other week, and the fixture has been rescheduled for next April. So we could have a nail-biting period, round about then. And, come to think about it, I suppose the rearranged South and South West v. London game could have an effect on the London Irish-

Wasps affair too. We shall have to wait and see.

But to return to our Manchester onions. I think we owe a vote of thanks to Sale FC* for agreeing to a High Noon kick-off today, enabling anyone who so desires to watch the England v. All Blacks game later on. Possibly on a wide screen which, I'm told, may well be operating in the Clubhouse this afternoon.

It also allows anyone from that part of the City to go and watch Hucclecote Old Boys take on Chesham in their Cup this afternoon. Unless they've decided on an early kick-off too.

But, however you decide to spend today's *apres-match*, you'll agree that it was very good of today's visitors to make what must have been a reasonably crack-of-dawn start from their historic Brooklands ground, and we're duly grateful therefore.

But then, it's no more than I would have expected. Sale, with a long and proud tradition, have always been that sort of club: determined to play their rugby in an atmosphere of great good fellowship while not giving the opposition an inch, if they can help it.

Rather like Gloucester, in fact. Just one reason why it's always good to see the Cheshire side here. We wish them well in their endeavours to achieve promotion, and hope they have an extremely pleasant visit. And just because they arrived early, it doesn't mean they have to leave early, does it?

**Sale are rather like the months in which you don't eat oysters. they don't have an 'R' in them.*

PROFITABLE FLUTTERS

One of the funniest, and certainly the naughtiest, remark I heard last Saturday came from the Shed as the lucky winner of the 'Golden Gamble' charged across the pitch waving his cheque for £139 over his head. "Give it to the

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THE SOCIETY THAT TRIES



WISHES GLOUCESTER R.F.C ALL THE
BEST FOR THE 1992/1993 SEASON
AND WELCOMES ITS GUESTS

Peter Arnold cont.

ref!" someone shouted. However, I don't want to get into trouble with the Referees Society, so I won't enlarge upon that.

The point of bringing the incident to your attention is to remind you that the odd flutter could have a highly beneficial effect on your Christmas budget. "Golden Gamble", with its 'half-the-takings' single payout at £1.00 a throw is obviously well worth having a dash at, but let's not forget the now well-established Gold Bond lottery.

I was reminded that I hadn't commented on the matter for a while only the other day. On my way to the Ground, having a little time to spare, I dropped into Eastgate Street's 'Courtyard' hostelry to talk a little rugby with my old friend, the gov'nor, Frank Lewis, who at one time, played on the wing for Gloucester Old Boys. (If you don't know Frankie, imagine a Gloucester version of Tuigamala and you won't be far wrong.)

As I was supping and chatting, in came the ever-cheerful and friendly bar lady, Sue Tomlins. "Great start to the day!", she carolled. "I've just received a cheque for £100 from the Rugby Club's lottery." So you see, some of the right people do strike lucky sometimes. Mind you, she didn't buy me a drink out of it, but I suppose one can't have everything.

So, it's worth having a go. And had you considered that there might be an idea here for a Christmas prezzy for a friend or relation who you always have trouble finding a suitable gift for? A subscription to Gold Bond at 50p per week for a set number of weeks — to the end of the season, perhaps — could be highly acceptable to the appropriate sort of recipient. It could, after all, win him or her several of those £100 cheques that Sue found so acceptable. I'm sure Andrew Benzie would point you towards a suitable agent if you give him a ring on 0452-419666.

ORRELL NEXT WEEK

Sorry to put something of a damper on the euphoria stimulated by last Saturday's remarkable performance, but it happens to be a fact that Gloucester's next League engagement is probably one of the most daunting anyone can

face. To beat Orrell on their own ground is an achievement and then some, as anyone who has ever been there will acknowledge.

Having said that, if the boys play like they did on Saturday, they're quite capable of beating anyone, as I'm sure they now realise. So the Wigan encounter may well be an enthralling one. And don't forget: the backing they got from the crowd, last week, was a significant factor, as I heard one or two players readily admit.

So the more support up at Edgehall Road the better. Coaches have been arranged, and if you want to take advantage, then your £6.50 fare is wanted by Wednesday next, if you don't mind.

If you're going to use your own transport, here are the instructions which I have from no less a personage than the Orrell club's own bar steward, who should know.

Drive up on the M6, and leave it on Junction 26. This leads to a roundabout where you are urged to *ignore* the M58 at all costs. Carry on round the roundabout, passing under the M6, and follow the signs to Wigan.

At the first set of traffic lights, turn LEFT

At the second set of traffic lights, turn LEFT

At the third set of traffic lights (would you believe), turn LEFT (wasn't there a bird which used to do something like that?)

This will bring you into CHURCH STREET. Drive on down, looking out for a sign which reads 'Power Station' on your right. Opposite that sign is EDGEHALL ROAD, and Orrell RUFC is signposted.

In spite of the club's fearsome home reputation, the trip is always highly enjoyable, with a pleasant ground and clubhouse, and an unfailingly hearty welcome. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

If you aren't making the trip, then why not come along and support United that day? The opposition will be Bristol, and don't be put off by the fact that United thrashed them at Kingsholm a couple of weeks ago. That was a one-off game, arranged because Bristol's scheduled opposition cried off at short notice. Next Saturday's is the match that matters: the one which counts in the Midlands Second Fifteens League. So it should be well worth coming to see.

MISSED YOU, JOHN

If, like me, you missed the dulcet tones of John Hawkins on BBC Radio Gloucestershire on the occasion of the League game at Bristol a couple of weeks ago, I have an explanation for

Two's Company in Gloucestershire



you. John was prostrated by 'flu, but he was in fine form again by last Saturday. "Ah well!" he told me, "The chap who did it at Bristol know a lot more about rugby than me."

That could, just possibly, be so, John. But he isn't a better commentator than you. Glad you're back in action: keep taking the tablets, or drinking the Scotch, or whatever. Saturday afternoon radio isn't the same without you.

WE GET LETTERS

Now look I'm not going to get into the argument. Anyone who takes issue with Ed Martin and his computerised statistics is strictly on his own, as far as I'm concerned. So I'll simply print the following letter from Chris Collier of Gambier Parry Gardens and let the pair of them fight it out:

Dear Peter Arnold,

In the programme for the Cardiff game Ed Martin in his "In Perspective" column wrote that the last time Gloucester beat Cardiff at Kingsholm was in the 1974-75 season. This is not correct, Gloucester beat Cardiff at Kingsholm on 7 April 1979. The score was 6-3, Bob Clewes scoring a try, and Peter Butler kicking the conversion.

The Gloucester team on that day was, Peter Butler, Bob Clewes, Ian Wilkins, Richard Mogg, Lewis Dick, Dave Pointon, Pete Kingston, Gordon Sargeant, Steve Mills, Allan Brookes, Steve Boyle, Adrian Turton, John Watkins, John Simonett and Paul Wood. Paul Williams had to come on as a replacement.

I hope the above is of interest to you.

As I say, I'm not going to get into the

argument, but I do have one vivid memory of the last time Gloucester beat Cardiff at Kingsholm, prior to this season, whatever the date was. I'm reasonably sure that it was the last game between the two clubs before the long cessation of fixtures, now so happily ended.

I recall that Cardiff played a veteran centre that day, and I believe his name was Huskisson, although I'm open to correction on that point. Something niggles away at the back of my mind which says he had already indicated his retirement at the end of that season, although I could well be wrong there, too.

Anyway, well into the game, John Watkins tackled him perfectly fairly, but very hard. What's more, to everyone's surprise, John then refused to let him get up, which wasn't typical at all, and we all had some dire thoughts of various kinds of assorted mayhem.

Shortly afterwards, however, it became obvious that that wasn't the situation at all. Poor Huskisson had sustained a very nasty broken leg and was stretchered off. I don't think he ever played again. As they hit the floor, John Watkins had actually heard the bone go, and stayed down, immobilising the player as best he could until help arrived.

A bad way to end one's career, but it was a bit of luck that the tackler concerned had enough nous to realise the situation and act on it.

All of which brings me to a related point which Ed Martin might like to consider. On October 16th, Gloucester beat Cardiff, 16-5. They also beat them at the Arms Park in the immediately previous encounter. Bearing in mind

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THIS MONTHS SPECIALS

Date	Destination	Departure Time:			— Fare:—	
		Chelt	Glos	Others	Adult	Child Snr Cits
Sun 21st	Blackbushe Market	8.30am	9.00am	9.30am	£5.50	£5.00
	Mystery Tour	9.30am	10.00am		£4.50	£4.00
Tues 23rd	Moreton Mrkt/Stratford	9.30am	9.00am		£3.00	£2.50
Wed 24th	Vale of Evesham & Twyford Garden Centre	12.00	12.30pm		£2.50	£2.00
Thurs 25th	Afternoon Mystery Tour	12.00	12.30pm		£2.50	£2.00
Fri 26th	16 Cotswold Villages	11.15am	—		£2.90	£2.90
	Cirencester Market	11.15am	—		£2.90	£2.90
Sat 27th	London for Shopping	8.30am	8.00am		£6.50	£6.00
	Merry Hill Dudley	9.30am	9.00am		£3.50	£3.00
Sun 28th	Wembley Market	8.00am	8.30am		£6.50	£6.00
	Cotswold Tour & Burford Garden Centre	11.00am	11.30am		£3.50	£3.00
	BBC Good Food Show NEC and Birmingham	9.30am	9.00am	8.30am	£4.00	£3.50
Tues 30th	for Shopping	9.15am	9.45am		£3.00	£2.50
	Abergavenny Market Leicester for Shopping	8.30am	9.00am		£6.00	£5.50

Peter Arnold cont.

that that was said to be the first time Gloucester had won at the Arms Park for 35 years, and that our home record against Cardiff isn't really anything to write home about, how long is it since Gloucester last achieved two successive victories over Cardiff?

Over to you Ed!

CHRISTMAS COMES . . .

. . . much more quickly than one sometimes realises. So any suggestion about suitable gifts is very welcome. And if that suggestion doesn't even involve you in leaving the Ground, then it becomes that much more beneficent.

All of which is just a sneaky way to remind you that the Club Shop is well worth exploring in your search for Yuletide cheer. I can just imagine the Saturday lunchtime conversation. "Sorry dear. Can't put up those shelves today — I've got to go out and do my Christmas shopping!" Well, it's worth a try.

Some of the items available for purchase at the Shop at the Worcester Street end are listed on page 6, but there really is no substitute for going along and having a look for yourself. Why not do that? John Beaman and Alan Townsend will be happy to pander to your every whim.

Thinking about it, I wonder if Alan has ever played Father Christmas? A white beard and a little padding, and he'd be a dead ringer. And can't you just see John Beaman in costume as Santa's Elf?

Be that as it may, our own version of Santa's Grotto is at your disposal. Ho! Ho! Ho!

WELCOME — AND AN APOLOGY

Apology first. Between us, Andrew Benzie and I managed to get the age of last Saturday's Match Mascot wrong. We stated that young birthday boy, Krystopher Stevens-Gardner is eleven years old, when he is, in fact, just seven. I don't suppose it detracted from his enjoyment of the occasion all that much, but we should have got it right, and we're sorry.

Let's see if we can't do better today. This afternoon's Match Mascot comes from Ruardean, where he attends the local C of E School. His name is Richard Scrivens, and he is ten years old.

Rich's Mum is named Marion, and his Dad, who works for a major pharmaceutical company, is Dave. They tell us that Richard attends just about every Kingsholm match, and would love to play the game, but that he has a hearing problem which causes difficulties.

I don't want to mention any names, but if it helps, most of us will recall a Gloucester winger who had a very successful Kingsholm career with that self-same disadvantage, so perhaps young Richard Scrivens shouldn't give up hope too soon.

As befits a lad named 'Scrivens', Richard's initial allegiance was to the forwards, and for a

long time, his personal hero was Sam Masters. However, I'm sorry to have to inform Sam that his Fan Club is now one light, because Richard has now switched his interest to the backs, with special reference to fellow-Forester, Paul Beech.

Good to see you, Richard! Hope you have a great day.

TERRIFIC TRIO

It wouldn't be right to let this occasion pass without congratulations to Paul Holford, Dave Sims and Richard West on distinguishing themselves while playing for Emerging England against the All Blacks on Tuesday last. They all acquitted themselves admirably.

By all accounts, the 'home' side gave the formidable New Zealand outfit just about the hardest game they've had on tour, which augers well for the future. What's more, 'Simsy' grabbed the distinction of scoring the first try conceded by the All Blacks for four matches. And we know Richard West was in the thick of things at the time, because the try was initially awarded to him. So both of them must have fixed themselves that much more firmly in the Selectors minds.

The whole affair must have been especially sweet for 'Westy', because he was only drafted into the side on the morning of the game when Andy Blackmore withdrew at the last minute.

Bad luck for Andy, who doesn't seem to have the best of good fortune in such matters. Good for Richard however. Many an International career has been launched on just such an incident. Remember Richard Sharpe?

TAILPIECE

Reverting to the Northampton game for a moment, I was asked a question last Saturday which I couldn't answer, and which I jolly well should have been able to. The question was quite simple. Why are Northampton RFC known far and wide as 'The Saints'?

When in doubt, got to the fountainhead, and a phone call to Northampton provided the answer in short order.

Apparently, Franklin Gardens, the Northampton ground, actually lies within the parish of St. James. The club itself was originally associated with that Church, and I believe, was called 'Northampton St. James.'

But their canonical patronage didn't do them much good last week, did it?



Ed Martin — IN PERSPECTIVE

GINGERLY thumbing through some fading and falling to bits copies of the Citizen the other week, I was attracted to the front page headline that screamed: "RICHARDSON AGAIN FACES CHARGE OF MURDER — In court with twins' mother".

No, no, the past of a certain coach that the Sun once dubbed "Rico" is not catching up! The front page story refers to one Grace Richardson who was in court over the "houseboat twins" murder.

This was an edition from August 1956 — you know, when the Soviet Union athletic team's discus thrower Nina Ponomareva failed to turn up at court in London on a shoplifting charge.

The back page proclaimed that "Richardson to captain the Rest" (that's Peter Richardson the Worcestershire cricket captain and England opener).

As far as rugby went, Gloucester's season was about to begin — the Probables were due to meet the Possibles the following day at Kingsholm.

The previous evening had seen an encounter when the Reds took on the Whites. This is the report of that preliminary match, which was headlined:

New centre shines in Glo'ster trial — HAWKER ALSO PROMINENT

"GLOUCESTER Rugby Club's informal preliminary trial at Kingsholm yesterday evening brought something of a shock for the Reds — the side composed mainly of last season's first team players.

In a keenly contested struggle, which produced a surprising number of good movements for a pre-season game, the Whites — principally reserves and "unknown quantities" — gave almost as good as they got.

Much of the limelight was stolen by the Whites threequarters — particularly centres Peter Hawker and Norman West. Hawker — yards faster than last season — was a constant menace to the Reds' defence. West — former Newbridge, Neath and London Welsh three quarter — also looked thrustful and passed and handled well. Another "discovery" was Old

Cryptian Peter Tunstall, a fast determined winger. Reds, playing under the handicap of being unable to field a recognised hooker, did not see as much of the ball as they would have liked and this much restricted the attacking chances of their back division.

In the loose, however, the strong Reds' pack generally held the whip hand. The game was staged to select two teams for Gloucester's main trial at Kingsholm on Saturday (3.15). These were later announced as follows:

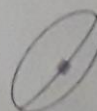
Probables: I. Sheen; P. Lewis, N. West, P. Hawker, R. Blair; D. W. Jones, B. Reade; G. Hastings, C. Thomas, J. Herbert, D. A. Jones, R. A. Clark, D. Ibbotson, L. King, P. Ford (capt.).

Possibles (selected from): B. Sibery; R. Sutton (capt.), A. Holder, D. Perks, D. Tunstall, C. Eviitt; G. Cumming, I. Francis, J. Baker; D. Soloman, R. Chamberlayne, A. Townsend, G. Thomas, F. Oatridge, L. Thomas, B. Green, I. Oakes, C. L. Summers, M. Craig, J. Bowdler, R. Stower, J. Corbett.

Changes will be made during the game. A collection will be taken in aid of Gloucester Rugby Club's Memorial Trust fund."

Peter Hawker had made his first team debut in 1955-6 season when he recorded six appearances. He played in 18 of the 44 matches in 1956-7 and appeared for the firsts until the 1966-7 season. All told, he made 82 appearances, scored 17 tries and, with the boot, kicked seven conversions, four penalties and one drop-goal for a total (in today's "currency" of 114 points.

Now, how about Norman West? There is no record of his name in any of the team sheets for that period. Did he ever play for Gloucester First XV, or did he return to Wales?



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