Season 1998/99
Price £2.00

versus
Gloucester
Sunday 27th December 1998
Kick-off 3pm

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TICKET SURPRISE FOR SHEDHEADS

You may remember our last game with today’s opponents Gloucester – the thrilling 13-12 defeat of the home side at Kingsholm back in October.

Will Green’s last minute try turned what was looking like defeat into a well-earned away win for the Men in Black. It certainly was a passionate affair – both on the pitch and off it!

It was the kind of game you would just hate to lose and Nigel Melville was quick to realise this when he spied two very miserable looking young Gloucester fans in the members bar at Kingsholm after the game. He got chatting to them and by way of a consolation offered them some complimentary tickets for today’s game!

We all hope you have a good time at today’s game boys – but then again, perhaps not too good a time!
Renowned throughout Britain for generating perhaps the most vociferous following in rugby union – Gloucester are doing everything they can to build a team that can match the passion of their fans.

For too long now, they have been the nearly men in English rugby – a title that offers respect to their efforts – but little else. They have failed to win a national league title in ten years of trying and have not won the national knock-out cup competition since they shared the honour with Moseley in 1982.

This is a matter of supreme concern for one of England’s rugby powers and their vociferous and loyal supporters.

For the Cherry-and-Whites, whose teams for so long have been built on players from the immediate area, the downturn in fortunes after their pre-eminence in the Seventies and Eighties had to be halted and the financial and playing strength of the club has been overhauled.

Last season, there were some changes in the squad and there were further moves during the summer to the extent that skipper Dave Sims was able to say before this campaign began: “We have now got a squad at Kingsholm with the back-up in nearly every position that people around the country will be jealous of.”

Sims, who was one of the few successes of England’s ill-fated tour to the Southern Hemisphere during the summer, believes there is much to come. He says: “A lot of experience was gained last season. There was a lot more confidence in the side and we have to build on that. “Now the supporters have seen the quality of the players we have they are expecting results and you can’t blame them.”

In fact, if Gloucester could only travel as well as they play at home, they would be in close touch with the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders. As it is, they are only just off the pace and, given the volatility of results this season, they may well be running close come next spring and in with the chance of the cup as well.

They will of course be desperate to avenge the defeat at the hands of Wasps earlier in the season – when Will Green’s last gasp score snatched victory from Gloucester’s grasp.
Meet the opposition

THE SQUAD

Brian Johnson
Wing
26, 5ft 11, 85.2kg
Has collected five England A caps having joined Gloucester from Newbury.

Philippe Saint-André
Wing
31, 6ft, 91.5kg
Capped 69 times by France and a favourite at Kingsholm since his debut in 1997-98.

Rob Jewell
Wing
21, 6ft 2, 94.3kg
Another promising member of Gloucester’s back division, previously with Gordon League.

Terry Fanolua
Centre
24, 6ft, 86kg
Western Samoan international and sevens captain. Back after a month of World Cup qualifiers.

Richard Tombs
Centre
27, 6ft, 93kg
Capped five times by Australia although born in New Zealand and previously played for Northern Suburbs in Sydney.

Rory Greenslade-Jones
Centre
25, 6ft 2, 13st
Another former Newbury man, enjoying his first season in the Gloucester first XV squad.

Simon Mannix
Fly-half
26, 6ft 1, 83.5kg
Once capped by his native New Zealand and previously with Sale before joining Gloucester in the close season.

Mark Mapletoft
Fly-half
27, 5ft 7, 83kg
Has one England cap to his name, and previously played for Rugby Lions.

Ian Sanders
Scrum-half
27, 5ft 9, 85.8kg
Busy half back who began his career with Bath before moving to Kingsholm.

Scott Benton
Scrum-half
24, 6ft, 89kg
Half back with one appearance for England having previously played for Morley.

The Backs

Audley Lumsden
Full-back
Age 31, Height 6ft, Weight 93.9kg
Moved to Gloucester having previously been with west country neighbours Bath.

Chris Catling
Full back
22, 6ft 1, 89.9kg
Promising number 15 who previously played for Exeter before his move to Kingsholm.

www.wasps.co.uk
The Forwards

Andy Deacon
Prop
33, 6ft 2, 107.8kg
Now in his 10th season at Gloucester having made his debut back in 1989 after joining from Longlevens RFC.

Phil Vickery
Prop
23, 6ft 3, 124kg
Five times capped by England, having previously played for Bude and Redruth in Cornwall.

Tony Windo
Prop
29, 6ft, 125kg
Previously with Longlevens and part of England’s tour party to the southern hemisphere in the summer.

Chris Fortey
Hooker
23, 6ft 11, 107kg
Another player formerly with Widden Old Boys and Gordon League before coming to Kingsholm.

Neil McCarthy
Hooker
24, 6ft, 102kg
Previously at Bath and made Gloucester debut in 1997 against Begles Bordeaux in the European Conference.

Rob Fidler
Lock
24, 6ft 5, 112kg
Two England caps to his name having been one of few successes in the Southern Hemisphere this summer.

Mark Cornwell
Lock
25, 6ft 7, 130kg
Formerly with Old Richians and with appearances for England at A level.

Dave Sims
Lock
29, 6ft 6, 115kg
Three times capped by England and has been with Gloucester since 1988 having previously played for Longlevens. This season’s captain.

Ed Pearce
Flanker/No 8
23, 6ft 6, 118kg
Previously at Bath before signing for Gloucester in 1996.

Nathan Carter
Flanker
26, 6ft, 100.3kg

Another who previously starred for local side Gordon League and now in his third season at Kingsholm

Steve Ojomoh
Flanker/No 8
28, 6ft 2, 120kg
12 times capped by England while with Bath and aims to be in the squad for the World Cup.

Peter Glanville
Flanker
27, 6ft 2, 102.4kg
Joined from Longlevens, made debut in 1992 and was club captain last season.
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<th>POSITION</th>
<th>GLOUCESTER</th>
<th>Player No.</th>
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<td>Full Back</td>
<td>Chris Catling</td>
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<td>Shane Roiser</td>
<td>Wing</td>
<td>Brian Johnson</td>
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<td>Laurence Scrase</td>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>Terry Fanoula (I)</td>
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<td>Rob Henderson (I)</td>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>Richard Tombs (I)</td>
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<td>Kenny Logan (I)</td>
<td>Wing</td>
<td>Philippe Saint-Andre (I)</td>
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<td>Alex King (I)</td>
<td>Fly Half</td>
<td>Simon Mannix (I)</td>
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<td>Mike Friday</td>
<td>Scrum Half</td>
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<td>Darren Molloy</td>
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<td>Will Green (I)</td>
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<td>Paul Volley</td>
<td>Flanker</td>
<td>Steve Ojomoh (I)</td>
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<td>Joe Worsley</td>
<td>Number Eight</td>
<td>Nathan Carter</td>
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**REPLACEMENTS**

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<td>Andy Reed (I)</td>
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<td>Florent Rossigneux</td>
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**Referee:** TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Touch Judge:** TO BE ANNOUNCED