

President's Message

Today we look forward to a John Smith's English Merit 'Table C' game Gloucester are currently top of Table 'A' whilst Orrell are in Table 'B', this game, though not being a Merit game in the normal sense, could influence who is promoted to Table 'A' from Table 'B'.

Our record against Gloucester in the four games to date is not good having drawn one and lost three. We hope today to break the sequence. Above all, we hope that Gloucester players, officials and spectators have an enjoyable day.

On behalf of club members I must congratulate Fran' Clough on being capped for England against Ireland and again today against France in Paris, we hope Fran will be in the England team for many years to come.

W. N. FAIRCLOUGH President.



CHARTERED SURVEYORS ESTATE AGENTS VALUERS

Principal: John R. Hilton, F.R.I.C.S.

Associates: T. R. Gent, B.Sc., (Hons.), A.R.I.C.S., A.S. V.A.

P. Sutton, A.S. V.A. A. B. Roper, B.Sc., (Hons.), A.R.I.C.S.

59a Gerard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield Tel.:- A-in-M 713109 457 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington Tel.:- Culcheth 4104 35 Lord Street, Leigh Tel.:- Leigh 670011

229/231 Church Lane Lowton, Warrington Tel.:- Ashton 725158 135 High Street, Newton-le-Willows Tel.:- N-le-W 22771

Gloucester

It is with very great pleasure that we welcome to Edge Hall Road, today the Gloucester Club for what promises to be a most interesting encounter.

Although it is the popular opinion perhaps that Bath are the top club side in England at the moment we know that this will be hotly disputed by Gloucester and their many supporters—and with good reason too! They have enjoyed a run of 20 wins from their last 21 matches and only last Saturday gained a very respectable away win in the John Player Special Cup over Saracens in a 4th Round tie by 13—6. This last match was of course after the February freeze-up and we can well imagine that there were a few people at Gloucester wondering beforehand whether the enforced lay-off before the Saracens match might have had an adverse effect on the sides' concentration. However Gloucester showed that they had lost none of their pre-freeze-up form and we know they will be more than keen to continue their winning ways this afternoon. Formidable opposition indeed for us and this is reinforced by a look at the John Smith's Table 'A' where Gloucester sit astride the table with a percentage of 85.71 and a very impressive record which shows that of the seven Table 'A' matches they have played so far, six have been won. In doing so our visitors have scored 127 points and conceded 98.

Formed as long ago as 1873, our visitors play at the famous Kingsholm ground in Gloucester and by a strange quirk play in cherry and white, a colour combination which needs no introduction to home supporters! Our visitors have for many years had a reputation based on a very powerful pack, of playing a type of rugby which was based on forward domination and which therefore, although effective, was not particularly good to watch. However, during season 1984-85 something of a revolution took place at Kingsholm as the side played a much more expansive type of game. This brought them more than 1000 points for the season and victories in 31 of the 47 games they played.

Noteable victories for Gloucester this season include Moseley (8—3), London Scottish (17—13), Wasps (25—13) and London Irish (44—3). One victory however has particular significance. Their victory over Rosslyn Park by 25—6 in November ended Rosslyn Park's unbeaten run this season, one of Park's scalps, so to speak, being ourselves.

Matches in previous seasons between Gloucester and ourselves in past seasons have always been tight and full of incident. We are sure today's game will be no exception. May we express the hope that whatever the result, our visitors enjoy their day with us and that they stay long enough to enjoy also some true Lancashire hospitality over a few pints in the Clubhouse.

