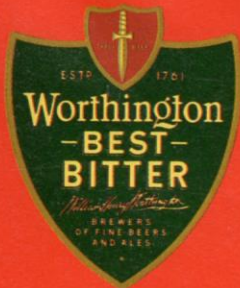


# GLOUCESTER v BRIDGEND

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

**FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 5th, 1993**  
**Kick Off 7.00 p.m.**



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GLOUCESTER



Official Programme  
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*Peter Arnold*

## MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

*'Home and away League matches, Divisionals and Internationals are going to be the benchmark for a full season from now on. Anything more than that may be a bonus, but it will not be too popular with the players.'*

Those were Coach Keith Richardson's closing remarks in his ever-interesting 'Pink Un' column last Saturday. His point was that the advent of the new Courage Clubs Championship next season may be the death-knell of the traditional friendly fixture as we have known it for over a century. He points out that, even where friendlies have been arranged, there is an increasing tendency for some clubs to cancel them if demands on their fixture list make it more convenient so to do.

If Keith's prognostications are correct — and he has a good track record in that regard — then this evening's game is one of the prime candidates for erasure from the fixture list. After all, if it's going to be a problem between English clubs, then the difficulties are going to be far worse where Anglo-Welsh fixtures are concerned. They have their own leagues and cups to consider as we've found, to our cost, on two occasions recently.

The loss of the Bridgend match would be a shame. Time was when we had the strongest Welsh fixture list in England, and we can't be far away from that now. Bridgend has always been a valued engagement in that list, and I would hate to see such a pillar of tradition disappear.

Of course, we used to play the lads from Brewery Field twice each season, as we did most sides. That state of affairs has long gone, but there's a vast difference between the present system and not seeing them at all. Gloucester and Bridgend was always one of the attractions of the season, hard fought and entertaining with it.

Way back in the fifties I had a boss named D. H. Gregory. It was always easy to get him to talk rugby — especially after George Hastings joined our little gang — but not so easy to get him away from the subject of Bridgend who, he was always convinced, should be providing at least half of the Welsh side and were, in any case, going to beat Gloucester by at least 50 points that season.

In fact, he was talking just like a Gloucester

supporter. I didn't find out that Doug Gregory had actually hooked for Bridgend for years, but he did provide a fine example of the club spirit of his chosen side, so like the home life of our own dear cherry-and-whites, if you'll pardon the paraphrase.

Last season, Bridgend pipped us by 8 points to 6 at Brewery Field, but that fixture was played on December 28th, and you know what peculiar sides (and matches, for that matter) the Christmas period can throw up. No such strictures apply this season, and we should be in for a highly interesting game. But when was it otherwise between our two clubs?

I hope our worthy Coach is wrong on this occasion, but if this is to be one of the last Gloucester-Bridgend fixtures, then let's make it a good one. The blue-and-whites are always welcome to Kingsholm, and never more so than now. Have a great time this evening lads, and we do hope to see you here again in the fullness of time.

### THANKS TO ARJO

If you came to the ground this evening by way of Worcester Street or Hare Lane, you can't have failed to notice a magnificent new, blue illuminated sign on your left which simply pronounces the word 'ARJO'. It's a very attractive sign which thoroughly deserves the Citizen's description of 'elegant', but you'll have probably noted that the word 'Mecanoids' has now vanished from the company name. It's part of an international exercise, I'm told, providing the whole group with a single identity.

A rose by any other name . . . the particular sweetness as far as we are concerned, being that one of the world's leading suppliers of lifting and other aids for hospitals, clinics, homes and other establishments has been sponsoring games at Kingsholm for just about as long as sponsorship has been available. We're obviously very grateful for that, and hope that the annual exercise has contributed to our valued neighbours' continuing success.

Success there has been, and then some. Mandy Clift, who has been efficiently supplying the information for these notes for some years now, writes: 'We have had an excellent year — rare good

*(cont. on page 5)*



**THE  
SOCIETY  
THAT  
TRIES  
HARDER**



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

## Peter Arnold (cont.)

news in these gloomy times. Sales in the UK and exports have both broken previous records, partially due to a 'safe lifting' campaign we have been running to protect safe lifting practices to protect the backs of nurses and carers.'

So some people have managed to beat the recession, and it's worth noting that the NHS is still Arjo's largest UK customer. So successful has the local company been that they were awarded the Group cup (it's enormous!) for having the best sales organisation in the Group worldwide. When you consider that that includes organisations in Sweden, USA (no slouches at selling things), Australia and every major country in Europe, that's quite an accolade.

But Bob Parsons and Mike North, the Sales Managers, would be the first to tell you that you can't run a success story on that level without having the right products, and that they owe thanks to Manufacturing Manager, Bob Locke, and Hygiene Products Manager, Frank Dunnett, for their efforts too. Mandy Clift tells me that the company has achieved the ISO 9001 quality rating after months of hard work. I must admit that it doesn't mean much to me, but when I learn that the distinction was earned at the very first attempt, and that around a third of the companies who seek the rating fail to do so, then I can see that it's quite an achievement.

All the above-named people, I'm delighted to say, are here this evening, along with Financial Controller, Bob Locke — and you can't have such a record of success without a good money man, and Managing Director, Andrew Wozencraft, who keeps the whole ship on an even keel. I don't remember Andrew ever missing this event, it's delightful to see him here again, and we hope we shall continue to do so for many years yet.

Arjo consider that laurels are for winning, not resting on, and they foresee a very busy period ahead. The new Community Care Act seems likely to shift the emphasis from residential activity to care at home. The company is engaged in developing new products and services to meet this new challenge, and with their track record, I certainly wouldn't bet against them.

We wish them every success. We're very grateful for their continued support, and hope they'll continue to provide it. Meanwhile, tonight's 'night off' will, we trust, provide a highly entertaining evening for them and their guests.

### RUN OUT FOR JOSEPH

Tonight's Match Mascot is Joseph Shelton who is

eight years old, and attends St. Peter's Junior School. He's already playing for Old Richians Under 9's, yet another example of the young talent being brought along by that currently very successful club. I note that their First Team beat Luctonians last Saturday, the first game the Leominster side has lost on their own ground this season, and the first time Old Richians have beaten them in living memory, or so I'm told, so they youth policy is beginning to bear fruit.

In playing for Richians, James is following in father's footsteps. Many people of the rugby persuasion will remember Jon Shelton, a former Captain of Old Richians, an engineer by profession and forthright wing forward for preference. They tell me he confines his activities to Golden Oldies rugby these days, so the sight of a new generation growing up to fill his formidable boots must give his enormous pleasure.

So young Joseph is in good hands, and has something to aspire to. But his interests don't stop at rugby. He's also a swimmer, and likes to play chess (give you a game sometime, Joseph. Did you know that Marcus Hannaford is, or was, a fair old practitioner at the game, too?) As a devout and practicing Wolf Cub, he's obviously prepared for anything.

Joseph's Mum, Catherine, is a library assistant, working, or so my spies tell me, at the central library in Brunswick Road. I've got two of those in my family, and know how handy it can be if you want to get hold of the latest rugby books. It's also useful if you want to dodge overdue fines, but I expect Joseph knows all about that.

After this evening, he'll also know what it's like to run out at Kingsholm. I hope it's by no means the last time he does it.

### JUST A LITTLE NOTE, AND THIS IS WHAT I WROTE

If you see the 'Pink 'Un' at all regularly, you'll have seen the recent spate of correspondence about the current situation at Kingsholm. Quite frankly, much of it has been pretty negative, so when the paper asked for a more positive view of things, I felt I should respond.

I did that, and my letter was duly published. At least, most of it was, but the limitations on space last weekend forced Terry Palin and his cohorts to chop it about a bit. I'm not complaining about that, just as long as the sense of what I had written was retained, and I can't say that it wasn't.

(cont. on page 8)

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### WHO'S DOING WHAT (and to whom)

Club Officials and Committee Members for 1992/3 are as follows:

**President:** Canon Mervyn Hughes.

**Vice Presidents:** Tom Day, Gordon Hudson, Roy 'Digger' Morris.

**Chairman:** Peter Ford.

**Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:** Doug Wadley, 'Byeways', Belmont Avenue, Hucclecote, Tel: 617202 — but please note, Doug is 'in residence' in the Office at the Ground from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. every Monday to Friday throughout the Season. Tel: 381087.

**Hon. Fixtures Secretary:** Mike Nicholls, 90, Kingsholm Road, Tel: 301879.

**Hon. Team Secretary:** Eric Stephens, 1, Court Gardens, Hempsted, Tel: 529000.

**Chairman of Selectors:** Mickey Booth, 5, Insley Gardens, Hucclecote.

**Hon. Colts Secretary:** Reg Collins, 11, Gilpin Avenue, Hucclecote. Tel: 614335.

**Committee:** John Beaman, Mickey Booth, Alan Brinn, Bob Clewes, Terry Close, Mervyn Elway, David Foyle, Jim Holder, Brian Howells, Richard Jardine, Jim Jarrett, Andy Mitchell, Cecil Pope, Trevor Pritchard, Eric Stephens, Alan Townsend.

**Players Representative:** Jeremy Bennett.

**Captains: First XV:** Ian Smith. **United:** Andrew Stanley.

**Coach:** Keith Richardson.

... **And I nearly forgot:** Programme editor, Peter Arnold, 74, Victoria Street. Tel: 380481, who welcomes news, stories, anecdotes from any supporter, from Gloucester or Opponents. Although the laws of libel or obscenity may deter him from printing them.

### Peter Arnold (cont.)

However, on reflection, I thought that as a member of the great Programme Purchasing Public, you have a right to see the entire text, so I reproduce it here. You may of course, agree or disagree, but these are my own thoughts on the subject.

Dear Katie Coker,

You asked, in last Saturday's 'Pink 'Un', for a positive view of affairs at Kingsholm, and as this is a time, if ever there was one, for true supporters to get behind the Club, rather than slagging everything off in all directions, here goes.

To start with, let's put things in context. This is the season when four teams are to be relegated from Division One of the Courage League. If this were a 'normal' campaign, where only two teams faced the drop, then we wouldn't be worried at all. Spare a thought for Clifton, who are lying fifth in their Division, but may still go down because eight teams are to be relegated.

It was the 20-0 defeat by Bath which has sparked off the most recent spate of criticism. But has anyone looked at Bath's recent record? The number of points they have been scoring is quite mind-boggling, and must average well over 30 points a game. To be held to a single try at Kingsholm didn't go down at all well with their own supporters who saw a mere twenty-point win as almost a failure. They then went on to put 79 points on Swansea, who

(cont. on page 9)

## NOBBY'S NEWSDESK



Hello everyone,

Welcome to Kingsholm for tonight's match against Bridgend. Having just completed the double over Newport, with a tremendous away performance on Tuesday night, our sights are now set on Bridgend and Cardiff later on this month. Wins in both of these fixtures will mean that we have played and beaten all but one of our Welsh opponents this season.

My two young Find the Ball agents will also be on the ground and in the bar tonight so please have a go as all the money raised goes towards club funds.

See you soon, NOBBY

Always room for more Gold Bond Agents and Members. Find out how you can help the Club, and make a little money too, by contacting Andrew Benzie on Gloucester 419666



## *Peter Arnold (cont.)*

fielded three internationals. Weekend they may have been, but that doesn't completely justify a virtual 80-point thrashing.

Although no one would deny that Gloucester RFC has problems — happens to everyone sometimes — there have been some positive results from our misfortunes.

Gloucester's injury record has been incredible. Remember, we started the season without a scrum half at all. However, that very fact has allowed some highly promising players to emerge. Laurie Beck has arrived as a more than competent scrum half, and Tim Smith's switch from full back to wing has been an unqualified success. Most striking of all, Damian Cummins has found his niche at outside half to such an extent that there is a school of thought which would make him first choice, even if the highly talented Neil Matthews were fit.

The forwards are now a very young outfit who have rarely been bested all season. Of course, there is a glaring vacancy at No. 8, largely due to the departure of Mike Teague and the injury to Sam Masters. While Paul Ashmead has been performing very creditably in that position, he is inexperienced there, and his best position is still probably at No. 6. There is certainly an opportunity here for any young player hoping to make his name.

The infrastructure is right too. The United side, vying for their third successive Second XVs Championship, bristles with talent, and some of it is bound to come through very soon. Much the same could be said about the Colts.

I can understand why some people are pointing fingers at the Coach and other Officials. Such things always happen in times of adversity. However, it's virtually the same team which has, in recent seasons, taken Gloucester to second spot in the League — and unlucky at that — to one Cup Final and a Cup Semi Final. They don't become a bunch of incompetent no-hopers overnight, and current moves to appoint a Director or Rugby should strengthen things further.

There doesn't seem any reason why Gloucester shouldn't emerge from its difficulties in fine style, and very quickly too. If only we could find a top class No. 8 — and a thoroughly reliable kicker.

Sincerely  
PETER ARNOLD

### **WELL DONE WESTY!**

It's very nice to see that lock forward Richard West has been selected for the England Students XV to play Scottish Students, today as ever was.

Of course, we could have done with him ourselves this evening, but it must be highly gratifying for all concerned to see that 'Westy's' progress up the

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**GLOUCESTER**  
(Cherry/White)

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**BRIDGEND**  
(Blue/White)

T	G	Pts

15. T. Smith


- 14. P. Holford
- 13. D. Cummins
- 12. D. Caskie
- 11. S. Morris

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- 10. N. Matthews
- 9. M. Hannaford


- 1. P. Jones
- 2. D. Kearsey
- 3. A. Deacon
- 4. D. Sims
- 5. P. Miles
- 6. P. Ashmead
- 7. A. Stanley (Capt.)
- 8. R. Fowke

**Replacements:**

- L. Beck
- R. Phillips
- M. Nicholls
- J. Merchant

T	G	Pts
H/T		

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Cumulative Match Score


Referee: D. Chapman (YORKSHIRE SOCIETY)

15. C. Bradshaw

T	G	Pts

- 14. P. Jones
- 13. P. Wintle
- 12. T. Michael/L. Evans
- 11. G. Wilkins


- 10. M. Lewis
- 9. J. Thomas

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- 1. D. Austin
- 2. S. Jones
- 3. A. N. Other
- 4. S. Jenkins
- 5. J. Jenkins
- 6. S. Bryant
- 7. O. Lloyd
- 8. N. Jones


**Replacements:**

- 16. N. Flay
- 17. M. Jones
- 18. D. Davis
- 19. D. Rees
- 20. I. Greenslade
- 21. J. Derrick

T	G	Pts
F/T		

## Ed Martin

On Saturday December 16, 1939, Bette Davis and Bogey were packing 'em in at the Plaza in "Dark Victory", Randolph Scott was hitting the trail at the Empire and Jack Benny was "Stranded in Paris" at the Picturdrome.

The old Hippodrome was in patriotic mood — the 60 minute "epic" of the RAF, "The Lion Has Wings" (As seen by H.M. the King and Queen) with Merle Oberon and Ralph Richardson, took top billing over Don Ameche, Henry Fonda and Lorretta Young who were starring in the feature "Modern Miracle", better known these days by its original title "The Story of Alexander Graham Bell".

During the week, the Government had announced that the wholesale price of food in November had risen 27.5 per cent since the previous November — and five and a half per cent in the last four weeks.

Down at Kingsholm, the Gloucester Rugby Football Club was still managing to survive with "official" fixtures — it was not until early 1940 that the club called it a day and put its activities on ice until 1945.

But on December 16, Bridgend paid its first visit to Kingsholm, which ended in a 3-3 draw.

"Why Bridgend did not win against Gloucester at Kingsholm on Saturday I cannot explain," wrote Rupert Cherry in the following Monday edition of the *Citizen*. "A try (from Gloucester) against a goal from a mark certainly flattered Gloucester, for Bridgend had far more of the game territorially, were constantly attacking and had cleverer backs.

"With the exception of Boughton, Gloucester's defence was generally weak . . . but somehow or other the City managed to save in the nick of time whenever Bridgend seemed certain to score, and the amazing fact remained that at the end that Gloucester's line was never crossed.

"Amazing is the word which describes this game. It opened with a surprise try in a loose rush by Day, Boughton missing a perfect cushy shot at goal, and Glan James, the elusive Bridgend left centre, scoring a splendid goal with a drop kick from a mark.

"This all happened in the first few minutes . . ."

By the end of his report, Mr. Cherry was in almost apologetic mood. "I am sorry to be so devastating about the Gloucester backs, but anyone who did not see the match must realise that they did not show up too well against the real class playing of such three-

quarters as Chris and Jack Matthews and Glan James."

While the Gloucester forwards were moderately praised by "R.C.", it was fullback Harold Boughton who saved the match for the home side.

"Gloucester ought to be very thankful that they have Harold Boughton," Rupert Cherry continued. "Every week it seems that I write of the splendid work he does.

"The truth is of course that he has to do far more than he should. The majority of Gloucester three-quarters, particularly the wing men, have either never been taught to tackle properly or are physically incapable of doing it.

"I realise that it is easy to sit up in the stand and say that it should be possible to bring a man down by putting your shoulder into his legs without using your hands, but the wild clutches of fingers in the region of a man's ear which Gloucester three-quarters call a tackle, will not do even for an attempt."

R.C. was not finished . . . "Another grumble. A first-class club like Gloucester should have centres who can judge their movements so that they can take passes at full speed and really cut through. Half the trouble on Saturday was that they were standing still when they got passes, and were promptly flung on the ground."

Teams for that day, according to the *Citizen* were as follows:

**Gloucester:** H. Boughton; P. Brown, F. G. Edwards and R. Cook; W. D. Kear and E. J. Parfitt; T. Day, A. D. Carpenter (capt), G. Redding, J. G. A'Bear, A. G. Hudson, T. Roe, L. Leach and J. Thornton.

**Bridgend:** Ronnie Thomas; Chris Matthews, Jack Matthews, Glan James and W. J. Richardson; J. W. Furlley and D. Phillips; Cliff Davies, Verdun Eddy; W. G. Hockaday, John Hopkins (capt), Edgar Davies, C. E. Eddy, S. Jenkins and Roy Davies.

As is the case with most Welsh clubs, Gloucester's overall record against Bridgend is not too good — in fact abysmal sums up the position which translated into a "winning" percentage amount to 33.33!

Of the 24 encounters, Gloucester has won just seven. Bridgend has claimed the honours on 15 occasions and there have been two drawn games. If you want to look for "excuses", then most of the meetings have been close encounters — Bridgend's points difference is 94 points.

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