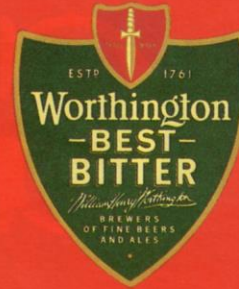




FOUNDED 1873

President:
Canon H. M. Hughes BA

Welcome
to
Kingsholm



Official Club Sponsors

GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

v

EXETER UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 9th, 1994

KICK OFF 7.00 pm



Official Programme
£1.00

DEVONSHIRE CREAM

It's sad that this evening sees the only Kingsholm visit this season from a Devonshire club. Although the county of cream and cider may not be able to boast a Courage League First Division side, it yields to no one in its rugby traditions and its fierce devotion to the game.

Most of us can remember occasions when Gloucester have been beaten by such fine old institutions as Exeter and Plymouth Albion, (who also play in cherry-and-white, incidentally, in spite of their name), and the story by no means stops there. Brixham, for example, surely has one of the draughtiest grounds in the country, an attribute more than compensated by the warmth of the hospitality. And I notice that they beat this evening's welcome visitors last week.

Then there's Torquay. I recall one season when the Gloucester game was called off by the opposition, for reasons which now escape me, only for Torquay to step into the breach and provide us with an away fixture at very short notice. So much did our lads enjoy themselves, that the Torbay side were invited to visit us the following season.

It wouldn't do, either, to run away with the idea that rugby is a South Devon prerogative. Bideford, for example, have been providing stern opposition for some of our local sides in the League for some seasons now, and it could have been even sterner a while ago when their most famous alumnus was still playing. His name is David Shepherd, he had a distinguished career as a thunderous batsman for Gloucestershire CCC, and is now regarded as one of the very best umpires in the world.

And d'you know? His position, in spite of his Mr. Blobby-like proportions, was scrum half.

Those of us who recall, and still value, the 'old' County Championship, will remember that all these clubs, and more, used to feature on the team sheets of some of the Devonshire sides which always gave the mighty Gloucestershire sides of the period a tough test. Another side which so featured was St. Luke's, latterly Exeter University, and it's a great pleasure to welcome them this evening.

I suppose, looking at the situation with a touch of cynicism, this is a good period of the season in which to welcome them. It is at this time that club managers and Directors of Rugby are eyeing such student clubs with a view to next

season; 'seeking who they may devour' to paraphrase the Bible. We already have reason to thank Exeter University's traditional and deadly rivals, Loughborough Colleges, in the matter of Mark Nicholson, and now, we're told, Mark Mapletoft, and what's sauce for the goose . . .

It's a touch ironic to reflect that, had the present predatory system been in place years ago, two of Gloucester's more notable personalities might have arrived here by the sporting route, rather than the strictly professional one. City Tourism Officer, Phil Cooke, left St. Luke's and went to play wing forward for Harlequins, while his boss, the soon-to-retire (unfortunately) Alistair McHaffey, left the college to play on the wing for Devonshire and Plymouth.

So, although we're not facing one of the most formidable sides in England this evening, there are many reasons why they're very welcome, once again, to Kingsholm. They always run until they drop, are very good company off the field, and can be relied upon to make the occasion a pleasant one for all concerned. We all hope they have a great time with us, and a safe journey back to what must be one of the most beautiful University campuses in Britain.

LONDON IRISH ON SATURDAY

Big day on Saturday. A win at London Irish in the League would help all of us to breathe more easily, while anything less would cause a flutter in the dovecotes. And I'm sorry to have to remind you that the Irish Exiles have beaten us already this season.

If ever there were a game where the use of your vocal chords would be much appreciated by the players, this is it. I'm told that there may well be seats on the various coaches still available, at a very reasonable £6.50 a time, and perhaps that would be your preferred option for travelling. If you're going by train, then there's a half-hourly service to Sunbury-on-Thames from Waterloo.

If you're intending to take your car, then the instructions, relayed to me by a very pleasant lady on the Irish ground, are as follows.

Make for the infamous M25. At JUNCTION 12, take the M3, and continue until it terminates at a large roundabout. Leave it at the A308, signposted KINGSTON, after which the London Irish ground is signposted. After a while, you'll find yourself crossing a bridge, and you're then advised to take the first turning to the RIGHT. You'll then find yourself in THE AVENUE, which

Two's Company in Gloucestershire

is a local introduction agency offering quality friendship/romance
Why not CONVERT your free time by getting IN TOUCH with us
PERSONAL INTERVIEWS — All ages welcome

Ring 0242 228808 or mobile 0831 687868



is the address of the London Irish club, so you're home and dried.

WELL DONE! AND BAD LUCK!

Nice to report a splendid display by both Gloucester sides in the County Cup Semi Finals last Saturday. It was cruel luck on Matson that they fought the improving Cheltenham outfit to an absolute standstill, only to lose out on the away rule, even after extra time. We know how it feels, having lost out in just that manner in a couple of John Player Cup games.

However, for we relatively unbiased outsiders looking in, that piece of sad misfortune is more than counterbalanced by Gloucester Old Boys convincing trouncing of Lydney — on their own patch, no less. However you look at it, a 23-9 away win in such circumstances has to be something for players to tell their grandchildren about.

Regentsholm is never an easy place at which to win, and Lydney never a side to lie down and turn up their toes. Do I have to remind you that Gloucester lost there in the first game of the season?

So the County Cup Final will feature Gloucester Old Boys v. Cheltenham, and there is at least one player who will be cocking a quizzical eyebrow at the prospect. Our old friend, look forward John Brain, played many a game for the Old Boys before moving to Gloucester. Now, he's come to rest at Cheltenham which he reached after a detour via Bedford.

In fact, both sides have several players who

are no strangers to first-team rugby at Kingsholm. Quite apart from 'Brainer', Cheltenham can point to skipper, Malcolm Preedy — who also played for England of course — Nick Marment and Richard Pascall. Old Boys include Andy Broady, surely the most consistent kicker around, locally, and Paul Mansell, not to mention Russ Ellis.

Having extensive experience of Gloucester Old Boys hospitality, as dispensed at Horton Road, I'm inclined to wonder if any of them have got home yet. I can reveal that there was no sign of Norman Partridge at his home address at 11.00 am on Sunday last.

So, the 1993/94 County Cup Final should be an occasion worth patronising. But when were things ever any different?

Hucclecote Old Boys in the Semi Final of what used to be the Provincial Cup, and Gloucester Old Boys in the Final of the County Cup. Local rugby is certainly alive and well and living in Gloucester.

KITTED OUT?

I'm told that Bath supporters, a few weeks ago, were very complimentary about the service they received at our Club Shop, and also about the range of merchandise on sale. It occurs to me that, with another run of Courage League matches just over the horizon, so to speak, you may want to make sure that you're appropriately kitted out for the various occasions. So now might be a good time to trot along and see what Alan Townsend and John Beaman can provide.

Cont on page 20

**MARCHANT'S
COACHES**
of Cheltenham Spa



Telephone:
0242 522714

THIS MONTHS SPECIALS

Date	Destination	Departure Time:			— Fare:—	
		Chelt	Glos	Others	Adult	Child Snr Cits
<i>*Child Only</i>						
MARCH						
Sat 12th	Crufts Dog Show, NEC or Birmingham Shopping	8.30am	9.00am	8.00amC+	£3.50	£3.00
Sun 13th	Mothering Sunday (Tour & Tea)	12.30pm	1.00pm		£6.00	£5.50
Sat 19th	Ideal Home Exbn or London Shopping	8.30am	8.00am	9.00amC	£6.50	£6.00
Thurs 24th	Ideal Home Exbn or London Shopping	8.30am	8.00am	9.00amC	£6.50	£6.00
Sun 20th	Daffodil Sunday (Tour & Tea)	12.30pm	1.00pm		£6.50	£5.50

C=Cirencester (Beches Car Park) + Additional 50p charge for Cirencester Passengers

— HOLIDAYS —

APRIL 1st 5 days/4 nights PAIGNTON EASTER HOLIDAY Park Lodge Hotel From £96.00	APRIL 25th 5 days/4 nights EASTBOURNE Stanley House Hotel From £94.00
---	---

Details of our Continental Holidays available on request

61 Clarence Street, Cheltenham Spa, Glos GL53 3LB

All kit used by Gloucester Rugby Club is supplied by



GLOUCESTER
(Cherry & White)

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts
H/T		

- 15. **Jon Moffatt**
- 14. **Jerry Perrins**
- 13. **Ian Morgan**
- 12. **Mark Bedney**
- 11. **Andy Sharpe**

- 10. **Paul Beech**
- 9. **Julian Davis**

- 1. **Andy Martin**
- 2. **Glyn Mann**
- 3. **Karl Koceran**
- 4. **Pete Miles**
- 5. **Pete Bell**
- 6. **Greg Keyse**
- 7. **Paul Ashmead**
- 8. **Mark Nicholls**

Replacements
Gareth Fenwick
Mark Cornwell

Referee: Gareth Morgan — Hampshire Society

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SPONSORED BY



Cumulative Match Score

†Captain

Gloucester Rugby Club use
GILBERT MATCH BALLS

EXETER UNIVERSITY
(Green & White Hoops)

T	G	Pts

T	G	Pts
F/T		

- 15. **Mark Beauchamp**
- 14. **Phil Drury**
- 13. **Stuart Culver**
- 12. **Will Taylor**
- 11. **Rich Mackay**

- 10. **Simon Cattermole**
- 9. **Leo Dwyer**

- 1. **Nick Williams**
- 2. **Jim Dickin**
- 3. **Matt Hearne**
- 4. **Steve Owen**
- 5. **Tim Bennett**
- 6. **Will Newman**
- 7. **Rich Mase**
- 8. **Andrew Bortchie †**

Replacements:
G. Hudson
B. Lighting

Ed Martin – IN PERSPECTIVE

TONIGHT WE go back to Friday September 8, 1933 when the entertainments page of the Citizen carried the announcement that "Bertram Mills' Circus and Menagerie (direct from Olympia)" with "Jeanette's Cricketing Elephants" was Now Open at Kingsholm Football Ground Car Park and "Positively Closes Tomorrow".

In fact, the circus came close to disaster about midday on Saturday September 9. Within the hour, the Citizen was on the street with the news (something they say that is impossible today with modern technology!). The headline read:

TERRIFYING GLOUCESTER FIRE SCENES

**Famous Circus Has Amazing Escape
Frightened Animals Moved to Safety
Screaming Elephant — Roaring Tigers
Kingsholm Football Stand Burnt Out**

The report read: *Terrifying scenes were witnessed on the Kingsholm Rugby Football Ground shortly after noon to-day, when a fire almost totally destroyed the big stand close to Mr. Bertram Mills' Circus. At one time there was a grave danger that the circus, with its menagerie of wild animals, would become involved, for only a few yards separated it from the blazing building.*

Heroic efforts by the Gloucester Fire Brigade and the employees of the circus, however, averted all but damage to the motor-caravans and their contents, but the terrified animals had to be rushed to a place of safety.

At the outset of the fire remarkable scenes were witnessed. Elephants were trumpeting in alarm, tigers were roaring, and some of the horses got loose. So promptly were measures carried out, however that before long the animals affected were far away from the scene of the fire.

All that remained of the stand after the blaze was twisted and blackened framework, the whole of the wooden material having been reduced to ashes. Iron uprights still supported the bulging roof, which at one time threatened to

collapse.

Erected about seven years ago at a cost of £2,500, the stand measures 180 feet by 40 feet, and was ablaze from end to end. As the firemen played streams of water on to the flames, heat blistered their hands.

How the outbreak actually originated does not appear to be known. This morning Mr. George Morgan, of 105 Reservoir-road, Gloucester, had been engaged in painting the rear of the stand with a motor-driven sprayer. At mid-day he had a conversation with his employer, Mr. William Jones, builder, and when he returned to the stand he found a fire had broken out. He immediately shouted for a fire extinguisher, and ran into the Circus marquee, which is close to the stand, to obtain one.

"When I returned," he told a Citizen reporter, "the stand was one mass of flames, and within five minutes the whole place was like a raging furnace."

In later editions of the Citizen, the report was expanded as more information came in.

Employees of the Circus, assisted by willing helpers, rushed the animals to a place of safety. Elephants were taken to St. Catherine's Meadows, and cages with tigers inside were dragged into Dean's way. In the case of the horses, some of whom broke away in the excitement of the moment, found a haven in the Kingsholm recreation Ground.

"It was an amazing escape," commented Mr. Bertram Mills to our reporter. "As a result of the outbreak it will be necessary to cancel the 2.30 programme, but the 5.30 show will be given in full."

Among the officials of the Gloucester Football Club sadly contemplating the scene from a great patch of blackened turf, was Mr. Arthur Hudson, the Secretary. "The first I knew of the fire was when I saw huge clouds of smoke from my shop window," he said. "I could not tell what caused it, but instinct seemed to warn me that the football ground was involved.

Cont on page 28

The GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Applications are now being considered for the placement of Perimeter Advertising Boards, Programme Advertising and Match Sponsorship for next season

Interested Companies should contact:

Gloucester RFC

Commercial Department on (0452) 419666

or write to Andrew Benzie, Bastion House, Brunwick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JJ

The caption to the photograph of W. HOOK in the London Scottish programme was omitted it should have read: W. HOOK brother of R. E. Hook, the Gloucester three-quarter, who playing his first game for the senior side, kicked three fine penalty goals against the Universities' Athletic Union. He is a pupil of Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Gloucester were supposed to play Lydney at Kingsholm that afternoon. The match had already been called off as the ground was too hard for rugby. As for the stand, it was rebuilt and, after work being done "day and night" the "grand opening" of the stand that we know today was on Saturday November 11 when Gloucestershire played — and beat — Somerset. The attendance was put at 10,000 and gate receipts were £700.

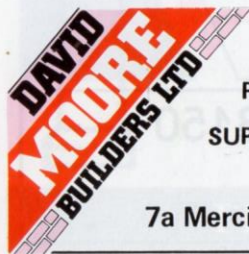
"Although the stand is insured it will be a heavy blow to the club that such a happening should have taken place at the outset of the season."

By the Final edition, there was a photograph to accompany the report — and commercial interests had arrived. As was often the style in those days, ads often looked like stories and the following appeared at the end of the fire article: *Insure and be sure. The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Ltd., transacts Fire and all other classes of Insurance. Moderate terms. Ask for quotation. District Officer, Midland Bank Chambers, Gloucester."*



A picture which illustrates the short gap between the blazing stand and the circus tent. The menagerie containing the animals is marked with an arrow.

— the photo and caption as they appeared in the Citizen



ALL TYPES OF BUILDING & REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
PLUMBING AND CENTRAL HEATING DECORATING
SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF MOST KITCHEN FURNITURE
& APPLIANCES

7a Mercia Road, Gloucester. Tel: 0452 414000