



CARDIFF RUGBY CLUB



AT THE CARDIFF ARMS PARK THIS EVENING ...

VOL. 4 No. 7

GLOUCESTER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1994
KICK-OFF 7.15p.m.
OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME – 30p

Passionate Gloucester have opened up their approach to the game

ON AN EVENING when league points are not at stake and during which we might hope to see some of the best of Anglo-Welsh rugby (and make no mistake about it, Gloucester are this season playing some of the most attractive rugby in England), it is easy to lapse into nostalgia.

Now, nostalgia may not be what it used to be but there is a temptation to sit back sometimes and listen to some of the more senior citizens.

It was just such in the clubhouse the other evening when the subject of Gloucester came up. Statistically, it was pointed out that the Cherry and White's only victory at the Arms Park since 1935 was their 11-6 win in 1991, but the main topic was a match here between the clubs in April 1948. It was the last game of a season during which Cardiff had won thus far 38 of their 40 fixtures with only two defeats – to Pontypool on the second day of the season and, wait for it, to Penarth, while nine of the Cardiff team were playing for Wales in Belfast against Ireland.

On the morning of April 28, Bleddyn Williams had a total of 37 tries for the season, only three short of the club record held by T W Pearson since 1893.

A few days before the match with Gloucester on that day, the club historian and statistician Danny Davies spread the word to such effect that the ball was run from all angles and unlikely places and nine tries were scored with Bleddyn being fed with four of them to break the record.

No one has scored more than these 41 in a season since then.

Overall, since the teams first met in October 1882, Cardiff have won 107 of the 163 matches played, Gloucester have won 38 and there have been 18 draws.

After the teams had met for the first time with Gloucester winning 26-0, the local newspaper said that Gloucester "played together as one man and gave the visitors a lesson which doubtless will be valuable to them in future." Doubtless it was.

PLAYING THE CORLESS WAY

TODAY, Gloucester believe that matches between Welsh and English clubs still have an importance which is not always reflected by selections enforced by tough international and league schedules.

For Gloucester this evening, the difficulties associated with avoiding injury by star players in a "friendly" are not quite so severe as those faced by Cardiff as the Courage League has now in effect gone into hibernation until the New Year.

They also come fresh from a splendid 14-10 victory away to the Harlequins on Saturday, a win which puts them in relative safety half way up the table.

Under the director of coaching, Barry Corless, the team has blown a fresh breeze through Kingsholm where traditionally the forward game has been the main power – along of course with arguably the most noisy and partisan crowd in Britain.

This is not necessarily a criticism either. Although the Gloucester chairman has had cause recently to tick off a section of their supporters for booing and whistling at opposition penalty kicks and questioning the honesty and lineage of referees in an outspoken manner, that sort of support when channelled correctly can boost a side to success.

Mr Corless believes it unlikely that an Anglo-Welsh league could come about for at least five years – and fears that the impetus for such a league has died



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somewhat in England.

Either way, his side will be taking this evening seriously and it would be pleasing to think that such exciting players as the dynamic full-back Martin Mapletoft, Morris, Holford, and Fenley will be here along with skipper Andy Deacon and with our old colleague Mike Teague pulling up his socks mentally while rolling them down literally.

For Cardiff, coaching organiser Alec Evans clearly had somewhat greater problems, which were exacerbated by the sad injury to Nigel Walker against Abertillery on Saturday.

Nigel's dislocated shoulder is not as serious as Michael Rayer's leg but it will keep him out for six weeks or more though, as Alec says, "Nigel is a positive man and he will want to be back not just for Cardiff but also for the Welsh side."

Not all the "senior" players, then, will be on view tonight in order to ensure that key men are not injured for the visit to Duntant next Saturday.

Last season's trip to the Swansea suburb was one of the harder matches of the season and, no matter how friendly the club is, their win at Pontypool on Saturday will have tuned them up nicely. With three league wins and a draw in their eight games, they look to be consolidating in the second season in the top division.

The current league tables are:

HEINEKEN LEAGUE – Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	T	F	A Pt.
Cardiff	8	7	0	1	33	259	88 14
Swansea	8	6	0	2	21	194	134 12
Llanelli	8	5	0	3	22	154	152 10
Pontypridd	7	5	0	2	15	152	89 10
Bridgend	8	4	1	3	20	181	203 9
Treorchy	8	4	0	4	14	172	108 8
Neath	8	3	2	3	8	119	160 8
Duntant	8	3	1	4	12	133	138 7
Pontypool	8	3	0	5	15	131	197 6
Newbridge	7	2	0	5	9	76	119 4
Newport	8	2	0	6	5	99	167 4
Abertillery	8	1	0	7	15	147	262 2

COURAGE LEAGUE ONE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
Bath	9	8	1	0	190	109	17
Leicester	9	7	1	1	225	139	15
Wasps	9	6	0	3	264	166	12
Bristol	9	5	0	4	193	191	10
Gloucester	9	4	0	5	134	146	8
Orell	9	4	0	5	100	135	8
Sale	9	3	0	6	184	221	6
Harlequins	9	3	0	6	143	205	6
W Hartlepool ...	9	2	0	7	161	213	4
Northampton ...	9	2	0	7	133	202	4

SEVEN TRIES COULD BE VITAL

The seven tries run in during the 50-14 over Abertillery could of course have crucial meaning by the end of the season as we move ahead of Swansea and were particularly praiseworthy in that the side had been disrupted both by injury and late illness.

Cardiff not only reached their third championship fifty of the season but also scored seven tries for the third successive match – against Pontypool, Penarth and Abertillery – since the defeat by the South Africans.

While we do not anticipate that the Gloucester defence will be so accommodating this evening, the attacking ambitions of both sides should provide some rich entertainment.

A very warm welcome, then, to the Gloucester players, officials and supporters – and to all at the Arms Park this evening.

D.G.

Cardiff

- 15. Jonathan WESTWOOD
- 14. Nick STORK
- 13. Simon DAVIES
- 12. Jason HEWLETT
- 11. Geraint PRICE
- 10. Geraint JOHN
- 9. Andy BOOTH
- 1. Phil SEDGEMORE
- 2. Huw BEVAN (Capt.)
- 3. David JOSEPH
- 4. John WAKEFORD
- 5. Howard STONE
- 6. Phil AGER
- 8. Owain WILLIAMS
- 7. St. John TOWELL

- 16. Gareth THOMAS
- 17. Chris JOHN
- 18. Gareth BABER
- 19. Vince DAVIES
- 20. Jason ROWLAND
- 21. Brett WAKEFIELD

Full Back
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Outside Half
Inside Half
Forwards



Replacements

This Evening's Referee:
Mr. Paul Adams

Touch Judge No.1: **Al Hudson**

This Evening's GILBERT Ball Sponsor:
Giovanni's Restaurant

Gloucester

- Mark MAPLETOFT 15.
- Paul HOLFORD 14.
- Lee OSBORNE 13.
- Ben MASLEN 12.
- Simon MORRIS 11.
- Martin KIMBER 10.
- Bruce FENLEY 9.
- Adey POWLES 1.
- John HAWKER 2.
- Andy DEACONS (Capt.) 3.
- Dave SIMS 4.
- Richard WEST 5.
- Pete GLANVILLE 6.
- Mike NICHOLLS 8.
- Paul ASHMEAD 7.

- Laurie BECK 16.
- Jerry PERRINS 17.
- Andy KNIGHT 18.
- Warwick BULLOCK 19.
- Bob FOWKE 20.