

SWANSEA

Cricket & Football Club



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**KINGS AT HOLME BUT
NOT AT ST. HELEN'S?**



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE CUP

SWANSEA



GLOUCESTER

~~£1.50~~
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Saturday, 19 October 1996 Kick-Off 2.30pm

Official Programme Season 1996/97 No.7

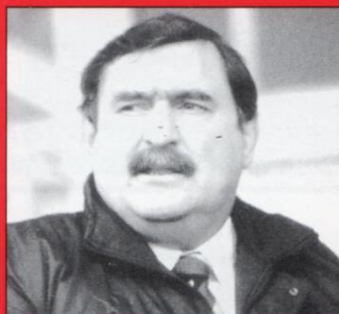
WELCOME GLOUCESTER

Our visitors today are no strangers to St Helens, although it has been a number of years since we last played them. For those of us who either played or visited Kingsholm will be aware of how serious rugby is taken by the club and particularly the supporters — it could well have been twinned with Llanelli.

Gloucester Rugby Club has a direct link with Swansea, with one of their former players occupying the highest ranking position in our club, Mr Viv Davies (Matty) who on those occasions in the past when visiting the Kingsholm ground would reminisce games played during the 50's and along with the remainder of our committee who played in that era, provide endless stories of those great players of the past, who made it possible for fixtures to be arranged between both clubs.

Gloucester's tradition of providing players for the International scene has waned in recent years, but no doubt having restructured, since the game going professional, their new Director of Coaching, Richard Hill, would have chosen this European Competition as one of his objectives for the 1996/97 season and a way of providing the platform for his players to catch the eye of the International Selectors.

We welcome Gloucester to St Helens this afternoon, with the hope that we can once again have the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends, on behalf of Swansea Cricket and Football Club we hope you have an enjoyable day.



Byron Mufson

*... how
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MASCOT



Today's mascot is a handsome young man by the name of David Fisher.

David is 10 years of age and attends Bynea School. His hobbies are rugby, as he plays for Bynea RFC, and football.

He has three brothers and one sister.

VIEWPOINT

WHILST the initial seasons of our existence as a rugby club saw us playing Welsh sides only, it was not long before we first ventured 'abroad'. Not surprisingly, Gloucester, just across the border and an established rugby stronghold, became a place for our gladiators to visit in pursuit of the strongest competition. Gloucester could satisfy that requirement, for historians suggest that, at the time (late 1880's), Gloucestershire was one of the west country counties which provided men to satisfy the insatiable appetite of Welsh industry. And many of those men brought with them a fervour for rugby which fanned the early flames of Welsh passion for the game.

It is probable that some of these men were the 'contacts' who helped to arrange fixtures which, quickly became established on the lists of both our clubs. In the years which followed men played for both sides and, indeed, one of them — Vivian Davies — became our fixture secretary. Around that time, 'Glos' games always featured early in our list and their men were always welcome at St Helens, as they are today! Welcome boys! It's been too long!

Today, of course, we meet in a competition which is different from those of the past. Our predecessors met in what we always called 'called' competition and the players involved were amateurs. On this occasion we compete in a European competition which has a cup format and the players are professionals. Consequently we are creating a piece of history which we hope will provide a match which is worthy of the long established tradition of "Whites" v "Glos" games.

We met at a time when our game is having to cope with a myriad of changes and problems. The new laws which are beginning to make an impact upon the game are, as ever, subject to inevitable variation in interpretation by referees. In Wales, according to most commentators, the new bonus points system appears to be an improvement on that used last season. However, a straw poll conducted by the writer amongst the supporters, media people, and administrators suggests worrying concern, to use an old fashioned phrase, they are 'fed up' with certain 'goings on' which they see as harming the very ethos of the game. Threats of strikes, break-aways, player power, club power, Union power, and tour cancellations 'unless', have made the campaign thus far seem to these respondents something of a SEASON OF DISCONTENT.

Yet all is not gloom. At least the changes in Union game have allowed us to bring back to Wales some of the talent we had lost to the League men. And there is a groundswell of opinion that we must get back to entertaining rugby, which, coupled with the new young players with flair who are beginning to make their mark in the Welsh rugby game, augurs well for the future. Dai Gremlin might have something to say about that. However, us optimists are straining hard to see that shining light at the end of the tunnel.

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Visitors' Profile

SWANSEA v GLOUCESTER

ONE thing that has been achieved by the formation of Anglo-Welsh and European competitions is the resurrection of fixtures for the Whites against the likes of today's very welcome visitors Gloucester. Those who have supported the Whites over the many years will remember with pleasure the visits to Kingsholm, very often for the first game of the season, at least every two years anyway. Before the advent of league rugby our season kicked off with games against Bristol and Gloucester, alternating home and away. One thing that emerged from those games against the "Cherries" was their ability to find a very powerful pack of forwards, year after year. Set pieces such as scrums and line-outs were always strongly contested, and we would be very surprised if that aspect of their play has changed at all.

Their coach is the highly respected former England scrum-half Richard Hill, and we cannot imagine him without adequate protection for whoever wears the number 9 jersey. (A good job we are not playing the Harlequins otherwise we would have to say the number 35 jersey, or some such nonsense).

Last season Gloucester finished in 8th position in Courage League Division One, after at one stage looking a good bet for relegation, but a late rally saved them, which shows that the players were not lacking fighting spirit. This season has not started well for them in League Rugby, but a recent excellent win over Wasps

indicates that they may be starting their rally a little earlier this season. In the Anglo-Welsh they destroyed our neighbours Dunvant (and do not forget what happened to the Whites at Broad Acre) and in the European Conference last Saturday were comfortable winners against Ebbw Vale, by 59 points to 7. These notes are being written before our game against Ebbw Vale so we are not able to compare performances.

Against Ebbw Vale there was an outstanding performance from outside-half Mark Mapletoft, a member of the England Squad, who scored four tries and landed seven conversions for a total of 34 points. One to look out for obviously. His scrum-half partner Charlie Mulraine also has a reputation for nipping in for smart tries, apparently relishing the opportunity for the quick, tapped, penalty.

Reports of the game against Ebbw Vale credited Gloucester with having powerful forwards, ball handlers, very fast around the field. If the weather is good then these forwards will today find that there is plenty of field for them to run around, as St Helens is one of the largest playing areas in Welsh Rugby. It will be up to the Whites forwards to match them in this respect and, on our form so far this season, we are quite capable of that.

All in all then a great game is in prospect in what is turning out to be a very interesting competition, and we hope you enjoy it.

TOM KILEY

SWANSEA



GLOUCESTER

15	ANTHONY CLEMENT	Full Back	AUDLEY LUMSDEN	15
14	ALAN HARRIS	Wing	MIKE PETERS	14
13	MARK TAYLOR	Centre	ANDY METCALFE	13
12	SCOTT GIBBS	Centre	ALAISTAIR SAVERIMUTTO	12
11	SIMON DAVIES	Wing	PAUL HOLFORD	11
10	ARWEL THOMAS	Outside Half	ALEX MORRIS	10
9	RICHARD HARRIS	Inside Half	SCOTT BENTON	9
1	DANZ NIBLO	Prop	TONY WINDO	1
2	GARIN JENKINS (Capt.)	Hooker	JOHN HAWKER	2
3	CHRIS ANTHONY	Prop	PHIL VICKERY	3
4	MARK EVANS	Second Row	ROD FIDLER	4
5	JAMES GRIFFITHS	Second Row	MARK CORNWELL	5
6	ALAN REYNOLDS	Flanker	ROB YORK	6
8	STUART DAVIES	No. 8	ED PEARCE	8
7	COLIN CHAVRIS	Flanker	(Capt.) ANDY STANLEY	7

Replacements from:

IAN BUCKETT
EUROS EVANS
STEVE MOORE
PAUL MORIARTY
LEE DAVIES
ADAM PALFREY

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Replacements from:

LAURIE BECK
MARTYN KIMBER
DON CASKIE
PHIL GREENING
DAVE SIMS
LEE FORTEY

Referee: **DANIEL GILLEGOT (Cosnac)**

Touch Judge No. 1: **JEAN-PAUL CLUZEL (Senac)**

Touch Judge No. 2: **BERNARD BACH (Auch)**