OUR VISITORS

Gloucester supporters undoubtedly get their full quota of top-class rugger at Kingsholm, and this afternoon we welcome further appetising fare to the “menu” with the visit of Oxford University, one of the conquerors of the Springboks this season.

KINGSHOLM KACKLE

The Dark Blues, unfortunately, only visit Kingsholm once every two years, the fixtures being arranged on the basis of alternative home and away matches.

Last season, when Gloucester travelled to Iffley Road to meet the 'Varsity they were, to use a colloquialism, “well and truly clobbered”, losing by 23 points to 3, their sole consolation award being a penalty goal from Tom Palmer.

It was on Saturday, December 2nd, 1967, that Oxford University paid their last visit to Kingsholm. Then they might be termed to have been a trifle fortunate in scoring an unconverted try in the closing minutes to share a draw of 11 points each.

Scorers for Gloucester that day were Ron Pitt (try), Eric Stephens (penalty goal and conversion), and Mickie Booth (dropped goal).

In the excitement of Gloucestershire’s great achievements in the South-West group of the county championship, it has perhaps been overlooked that Gloucester have brought off three excellent victories with weakened sides on “County dates”.

Old Blues and Lydney — last Saturday — were two of their victims, but the most meritorious was the feat of the “second string” in beating powerful Moseley at the Reddings earlier this month and taking the Midlanders’ year-old ground record.

Congratulations, then, to these keen and capable lads who so willingly help out in the first XV and acquit themselves so admirably without ever receiving due recognition. It says much for the great spirit that prevails in rugger in the City!

Supporters will be interested to know that David Ainge entered hospital last week for treatment to the back injury he sustained when playing for Bristol against Leicester nearly a year ago.

Next Saturday it will again be the turn of Gloucester United to hold the stage at Kingsholm, where they have an interesting new fixture in Nottingham Corsairs, (kick-off 3.15 p.m.). Give the lads your support; they would appreciate it!

The senior side travel “over the border”, meeting Pontypool in the first of two matches against the Monmouthshire side within the space of a month. They make the return visit to Kingsholm during the Christmas week-end.

The next game for the premier team at Kingsholm is a fortnight today, on December 13th, when they entertain Bath, who are having such a successful run this season.

A.R.

LUCKY PROGRAMME NUMBER - THE LYDNEY GAME
No. 31. Mr. T. Smith, Chalford Hill, Stroud, who wins £5.

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