## COVERTRY FOOTBALL CLUB RUGBY UNION



**CLUB FOUNDED 1874-75** 

President: T. VENN. Hon. Secretary: P. A. J. SHARP, 17 Asthill Grove, Coventry. Tel: 24812.

Gloucester are our visitors today for the second of the three matches which the two clubs now play each season. In 1968—69 we ended up as near even as makes no difference, each side winning one, drawing one and losing one, and Gloucester just having the edge in aggregate points by 33 to 31.

The first encounter of the current season, at Kingsholm on September 13 resulted in a 15–9 victory for Coventry, which puts us ahead in the reckoning so far. Cov, in fact, have won 23 and drawn five of the 40 matches between the two clubs in postwar veers.

Gloucester are pursuing their usual course this season of packing in as many matches as they possibly can and have so far managed to play no fewer than 27, winning 15 and losing the other dozen. All of which makes Cov's mere 19 games look small beer in comparison.

Quite apart from this heavy club programme, a number of Gloucester's players have been closely concerned in their County's smooth progress to the Championship quarter-final on January 10 and they must have a fine chance of winning through to the final for the first time since they went down 14—9 to Warwickshire at Bristol in 1958—59. Blind-side wing-forward Phill Hayward has been particularly prominent in the County's success and must have come very close to



No excuses for using a picture from last season when it is as good as this one taken by "Evening Telegraph" chief photographer Lou Morris. It serves to mark the welcome return of Bill Gittings, seen here about to descend on Newport's Gwilym Treharne. (Photo by courtesy of the Coventry Evening Telegraph).

winning an England place. Lock forwards Alan Brinn and Jim Jarrett have also been involved in England squad sessions this season.

Cov. have now lost six of their last 10 games after an opening run of nine consecutive victories. Even so, Harlequins and Northamp-

ton are still the only English club sides to have triumphed at Coventry's expense, and Cambridge University are the only team to have won at Coundon Road this season. As always, there are injury problems, and our good wishes go first of all to Rodney Webb, currently recuperating from an operation on his knee cartilege and planning to be back in action again within the next couple of months or so. John Barton and Nobby Bolton have both been progressing well and it is also pleasant to welcome back Ralph Warmington and Peter Rossborough, whose long absences have been caused by college and university studies.

However, on the debit side, Alan James' comeback seems to have come to a premature but we hope temporary end and again we hope that he will soon be fit and able to play in his old, familiar style.

**Next Home Game** 

A reminder that the 1st XV are home again next Friday, Boxing Day, when they play hosts to Cheltenham.

## THE RED HOUSE GROUP



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Coventry V. Gloucester

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1969



Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.

Referee: Mr. B. Richards, Somerset		Gloucester	
No. Name 1 P. A. Rossborough	Full Back	Name T. Palmer	No.
2 M. Campton 3 R. E. Griffiths 4 C. P. Wheatley 5 P. S. Preece	Right Wing Right Centre Left Gentre Left Wing	R. Clewes J. Bayliss A. Fielding J. Horner	2 3 4 5
6 T. Andrews 7 W. J. Gittings	Stand Off Scrum Half	T. Hopson J. Spalding	7
8 J. M. Broderick 9 H. J. Wyman 10 R. J. Knott 11 I. N. Darnell 12 H. Prosser 13 R. N. Creed 14 L. J. Rolinson 15 B. C. Holt	Forwards	K. Richardson M. Nicholls R. Cowling A. Drinn J. Jarrett G. White M. Potter J. Watkins	8 9 10 11 12 13 13 14