



R.F.U. CLUB KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION
QUARTER FINAL

LONDON WELSH

v

GLOUCESTER

4 MARCH 1972

LONDON WELSH R.F.C.

OLD DEER PARK, KEW ROAD, RICHMOND

PROGRAMME 8p.

4 - Try Hallin

LONDON WELSH v GLOUCESTER

9 - Try - Potter
Cousins
Aunt's foot - 2000000

LONDON WELSH

(Colours—Red)

- 15 D. Llewellyn Full Back
- 14 T. G. R. Davies † Threequarters
- 13 S. J. Dawes †
- 12 K. Hughes †
- 11 J. Shanklin †
- 10 R. H. Phillips Fly Half
- 9 W. G. Hullin † Scrum Half
- 1 F. J. Williams ~~for T. G. Davies~~ Forwards
- 2 A. P. Baker
- 3 I. C. Jones †
- 4 T. G. Evans †
- 5 M. G. Roberts †
- 6 J. Taylor †
- 8 T. M. Davies † or A. R. Pender
- 7 A. J. Gray (Capt.) †

GLOUCESTER

(Colours—Cherry and White)

- E. J. F. Stephens 15
- R. J. Clewes 14
- R. Jardine 13
- J. A. Bayliss 12
- J. Dix 11
- T. Palmer 10
- M. H. Booth 9
- R. J. Cowling 1
- M. J. Nicholls (Capt.) 2
- † M. A. Burton 3
- N. A. Jackson 4
- J. S. Jarrett 5
- J. A. Watkins 6
- M. J. Potter 8
- ~~R. Smith~~ 7
- J. Haines.

† International.

11 International
including 6 home

Referee : Mr. K. A. Pattinson (North Midlands)

1 International

club notes

We extend a very warm welcome to Old Deer Park today to the GLOUCESTER team and their supporters. To reach this stage of the competition Gloucester have beaten Bath (12-3) and Bristol (15-4) both away from home. In their progress to the quarter-final London Welsh overcame Oxford 30-6 at home, and Saracens 33-7 away. Gloucester's overall record this season is W22, D2, L7, points for 571, against 292; they have not lost on their own ground, Kingsholm, for nearly 18 months, an impressive ground record indeed. The majority of the present side were either born in the City or in its surrounds, or learned their Rugby there with local clubs. They are, therefore, no strangers to competitive Rugby, as the highly successful North Gloucestershire Cup Knock-out competition has been running since the turn of the century. Alan Brinn and Mike Burton are the latest Gloucester players to represent England. We sympathise with Alan in missing his third cap last Saturday due to an injury incurred in pre-match training. Other Gloucester Internationals who spring readily to mind are Tom Voyce, capped 27 times for his country in the 20's, and who is now the Club's President, and, more recently of course, Don Rutherford and Peter Ford.

After a fair amount of research we can find no record of London Welsh having played Gloucester in London since the First World War, but the two teams did meet regularly in the West Country from the 20's to the 50's, when the fixture was part of the London Welsh Easter tour. Had our old friend, and valued colleague, Vernon Davies been readily available for consultation during the preparation of these programme notes, he would of course have had the information off pat. Vernon's many other friends would like to know, we feel sure, that a week yesterday he left Addensbrook Hospital, Cambridge, and was driven to his mother's home in Carmarthen. All at Old Deer Park send their greetings and best wishes to you, Vernon.

The City of Gloucester we are reliably informed is famous for three things, its Cathedral, elvers and Rugby Football, but not necessarily in that order. Most of us have, at one time or another, visited the ancient Cathedral, burial place of Edward II, who was born at Caernarvon, and was the first heir to the English throne to hold the title, Prince of Wales. The Rugby Club — poised to celebrate its centenary in 1973 (when London Welsh will visit Kingsholm) — is also well known to all followers of the game — but elvers?

We did know, perhaps because of an addiction to crosswords, that elvers are young eels, but why famous? We are informed by Mr. Arthur Russell of the Gloucester Club, who has kindly provided us with much valuable information for these notes, that the elver is much esteemed as a piscatorial delicacy in Gloucester. The elvers can be fished from the Severn for only about six weeks in the year, and during that time they appear on the dining tables of many Gloucester families. It is for this reason that our opponents and their supporters are known as "The Elver Eaters", and we were indeed sorely tempted to describe today's game on the programme cover as "Welsh Exiles v. Elver Eaters", but came to the conclusion that this smacked more of an introduction to a game played under American rules than under the laws of Rugby Football.

For the material on which the following pen pictures of the Gloucester team are based, we are again indebted to Arthur Russell:—

Eric Stephens: A prodigious goal-kicker, among the leading points' scorers in the country. Reputed by the locals to take five kicks at goal while Bob Hiller is making one mound. One of the hardest-hitting batsmen in club cricket. A Technical Consultant.

Bob Clewes: Full of potentialities; one of the youngest members of the side and their leading try-scorer, both last season and this; a thrustful and elusive runner. A Construction Surveyor.

Richard Jardine: Rapidly reaching the heights in his ruggar career. He won — and retained — his place in the Gloucestershire side this season, and last week-end played for British Police against French Police in Paris.

John Bayliss: A strong runner with a devastating crash tackle. At cricket he is an aggressive, stylish batsman. He and his wife have a greengrocery business in Gloucester.

John Dix: Described as the "diminutive one of the twinkling toes" whose pensive expression changes, we are told, to one of mingled joy and determination when the opportunity arises for him to make a dash for the line. Is a Draughtsman.

Tom Palmer: Gloucester's valuable "import" from "Tiddy-Oggy Land", he is the Cornwall skipper. Equally at home at outside half, centre or full-back, he has been England's reserve in the back division all this season. Is an official with the "Min. of Ag. and Fish".

Mickie Booth: Known, even beyond his native Gloucester, as the "General" — and not merely because he bears the same name as the great Salvationist! Considered by most shrewd judges to be still one of the greats among the scrum-half brigade. Also a highly accomplished cricketer. A Skilled Metal Worker.

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Robin Cowling : A tough, yet genial forward who has shot to the top in the past two seasons, sharing with Burton and skipper Nicholls the reputation given them by one source as the "iron front row of rugger". Is a Farmer.

Mike Nicholls : The Club captain. Generally acknowledged by those who know, to be one of the greatest in Gloucester's history. Has continued to foster an amazing club spirit. Augments his hooking duties with ferocious work in the loose. Is a self-employed Draughtsman.

Mike Burton : One of Gloucester's latest internationals, having won his first cap, together with Alan Brinn, in this season's match against Wales. The club's finest after-dinner speaker, Rugby writer, coach and comedian. Not only knows all the Rugby songs, but claims to have written them all. Managing Director of a property company.

Nigel Jackson : An exuberant performer in the loose who jumps to varying and deceiving heights in the line-out. Was preferred to International Watt by Gloucestershire in last year's County championship final. A live-stock Buyer for the Fatstock Meat Corporation.

Jim Jarrett : Another valuable "import" who was formerly skipper of Pontypool, and led a combined Monmouthshire Club's team against the Australians on their last visit here. Was also a member of the England squad two years ago. Is a Sales Representative.

John Watkins : Only in his third first-class season, but has already established himself among the best blind-side flankers in the country. Is a Machinist.

Mike Potter : Another tireless forward who, along with Watkins, has sprung to prominence in the last year or so and must be bidding for higher honours. A powerful runner in attack and a fierce tackler. Is a Council Maintenance Engineer.

Dick Smith : Has possibly had more England trials and "reserve" cards than anyone else still playing. Was included in the Barbarians' side to meet East Midlands at Northampton on Thursday last in the annual Mobbs' Memorial match. Is Manager of the fruit and vegetable wholesale business owned by Peter Ford, the former England wing-forward, now a Gloucester Committee man.

Alan Brinn : The injury that Alan sustained before the French game keeps him out of the Gloucester side for today's game, much to his bitter disappointment. The injury could possibly keep him out of the Gloucestershire side to play Warwickshire in the County championship final at Coventry next Saturday as well. With ex-County centre Ron Pitt, Alan runs sports outfitters' shops in Gloucester and Tewkesbury.

At the time of going to press (earlier than usual nowadays on account of the power cuts) the composition of the London Welsh side had not been decided. We have listed in the team sheet the names of the forwards from whom the final selection is likely to be made, and must leave it to Delme Thomas to bring you right up to date today in his pre-match announcements.

What a close call it was against Neath last Saturday, and how relieved we all were when Keith Hughes scored that breath-taking try in the dying moments of the game. While all this was going on, history was being made on the adjoining pitch, where the Extra "A1's", spurred on perhaps by the account in last week's programme of the scoring exploits of their immediate seniors, piled up a Club record score of 110 points against the unfortunate Queen Elizabeth College. Alan Richards and David Williams each had five tries.

Obituary

His many friends in the London Welsh Club will be very sorry to hear of the death last week of Ray Thomas. A native of Tredegar, Ray joined the Club as a young wing-threequarter in season 1930-31, and was a member of the London Welsh side which beat Harlequins in the final of the Middlesex Sevens that season. Ray, who was made Captain of the Club in 1934-35, was a reserve wing for Wales more times than any other London Welsh player. Shortly before the war he obtained a post at Caerleon College and subsequently became a W.R.U. referee and an official A.A.A. coach. Despite his many pre-occupations Ray always took a great interest and pride in the affairs of this Club.

Have You given ?

In the light of the initial response to the appeal for funds for the **John Dawes Lions Room** your Committee felt justified in giving the go-ahead to the project, and the Club's Architects were instructed accordingly. But, after the promising start, the response has slowed up and, to ensure the ultimate success of this new development at Old Deer Park, it is **now imperative** that members who have not already done so complete the detachable portion of the brochure recently sent to them, **enclose their donation**, and send it to **D. K. Clark, 26 Cadogan Court, Sutton, Surrey**. Spare copies of the brochure are available in the Committee Room.