

# COVENTRY FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY UNION



Action from Coventry's last home Knockout tie. Geoff Evans, the club's latest international, gives the ball out during the 30-3 win over Notts in February.

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## Knock-Out Cup Semi-Final Coventry v Gloucester

SATURDAY, 25th MARCH, 1972 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Programme

# 4p



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for the local slant on  
the 'rugger' scene



# TEAMS

Referee: Air Commodore G.C. Lamb (Royal Air Force)

## Coventry

No. Name

1	P.A. Rossborough	Full Back
2	D.J. Duckham	Right Wing
3	P.S. Preece	Right Centre
4	G.W. Evans	Left Centre
5	R.E. Webb	Left Wing
6	P.D. Nicholls	Stand Off
7	W.J. Gittings	Scrum Half
8	K.E. Fairbrother	Forwards
9	J.D. Gray	
10	G.J. Creed	
11	I.R. Darnell	
12	B.F. Ninnies	
13	B.C. Holt	
14	J. Barton	
15	R.N. Creed (Capt.)	

## Gloucester

Name

No.

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



# COVENTRY FOOTBALL CLUB (Rugby Union)

COUNDON ROAD, COVENTRY

President: T. VENN.

Hon. Secretary: P. A. J. SHARP,

17 Asthill Grove, Coventry. Telephone: 24812



ESTABLISHED 1874/5

## Club Notes

In 22 postwar visits to Coundon Road, Gloucester have won only four times — the last occasion being 1966–67. Victory today carries a greater prize than ever before, with a place against Moseley or Wilmslow in the R.F.U. Knockout Championship final at Twickenham on April 29th waiting.

For all their lack of success here, Gloucester are always regarded as one of Coventry's most formidable opponents, and with good reason. Some of the scars of past battles at Coundon Road or Kingsholm are still carried to this day by those who took part!

This season, things seem to be going Gloucester's way. They have impressed everyone by eliminating in succession Bath, Bristol and London Welsh from the Knockout Championship, all away from home as well. Then six of Gloucester's team this afternoon — Richard Jardine, Eric Stephens, Robin Cowling, Mike Burton, Alan Brinn and Dick Smith — contributed handsomely to Gloucestershire's County Championship final win over Warwickshire a fortnight ago.

But Coventry are only too well aware of the task facing them. They lost 16–15 at Kingsholm in September when a Steve Adams conversion attempt bounced the wrong way off the upright and won 27–17 at Coundon Road in December, on the day of the first England trial.

Now the Coventry side is beginning to look more settled than at any time for months, with Roger Creed back to provide inspiring captaincy and David Duckham, Peter Preece, Geoff Evans and Rodney Webb forming the most talented threequarter line in the land.

So the stage is set for a fascinating match and not the least cause of satisfaction for Midlands followers of the game is that the proper order of things has been established at this stage of the R.F.U.'s inaugural Knockout Championship.

Out of the reckoning have gone Harlequins and London Welsh, the fancied sides for the big city, and in at the kill are Coventry, Moseley, Gloucester and the unheralded Cheshire side, Wilmslow, whose presence gives the competition such added flavour.

Top honours in the game continue to come the way of Coventry and we extend our heartiest congratulations to Geoff Evans on winning his first England cap last Saturday at Murrayfield and to Peter Preece, who is the one player from the club so far selected for the tour of South Africa.

Geoff also wins Barbarians honours on tour in South Wales next weekend and there is still a chance for the likes of John Barton to force his way into the reckoning for the South Africa tour party with a fine display this afternoon.

Coventry, incidentally, are well on the way to another scoring record this season, with 763 points totalled so far compared with last season's all-time record of 856. Even allowing for the extra point awarded for tries this season, it will still be a formidable aggregate at the season's end with a dozen or so matches left to play.

### Car Park

We again remind members that it is vitally important for those parked in the middle of the car park to move their vehicles IMMEDIATELY after the game. This is even more important on a day such as today, when a large crowd is anticipated.

Supporters are also again reminded that they should watch closely the police parking restrictions in the vicinity of the ground. The club are in no way responsible for these.

### Your Forthcoming Matches

Everyone should remember that the 1st XV are in action again in Monday evening, when they endeavour to complete the double over Rugby at Webb Ellis Road. Supporters can then look forward to a home bonanza over Easter. On Easter Saturday we play hosts to Gosforth and on the Monday, 3rd April, to Headingley. Today fortnight, 8th April, we are at home again to Harlequins.

A date for all to note is Sunday 23rd April, when the finals of the Midlands Sevens will be played.

### Bristol

Coaches are being laid on for this attractive trip, but you are asked to book your seats early at the Supporters' Club Office. The return fare is £1.10 and we shall leave the ground at 9.00 a.m., returning from Bristol at approx. 12.30 a.m. The date in question is of course Saturday 22nd April.

We also still have in stock a quantity of club scarves at £2.10 each and these may be purchased from the office or the steward in the Clubhouse.

Your programme editor is Mr. J. Butler.