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“THE PIRATES”

v

GLOUCESTER

At the MENNAYE FIELD

On Saturday, 22nd April, 1972

KICK-OFF 6.00 p.m.

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PIRATES

15 R. PASCOE (Capt.)
 14 E. CARE
 13 M. THOMAS
 12 N. CARE
 11 M. NICHOLLS
 10 B. HARVEY
 9 P. PENROSE
 8 T. COPLIN
 7 M. BOLITHO
 6 C. DYMOND
 5 P. WESTREN
 4 D. DREW
 3 G. ROWE
 2 C. THOMAS
 1 R. HARDING

Full Back
 Right Wing
 Right Centre
 Left Centre
 Left Wing
 Stand-off Half
 Scrum Half

} Back Row }
 } 2nd Row }
 } Hooker }

GLOUCESTER

15 S. STEPHANS
 14 J. DIX
 13 T. BAYLISS
 12 R. MORRIS
 11 P. CLEWS
 10 D. HARGREAVES
 9 M. BOOTH
 8 M. POTTER
 7 J. HAINES
 6 J. WATKINS
 5 A. BRINN
 4 M. JACKSON
 3 H. RICHARDSON
 2 M. NICHOLLS (Capt.)
 1 ~~M. BURTON~~

F.C. REED
 ↙

Referee: D. HEAD, C.R.O.R.S.

CLUB NOTES

Despite the England squad work-out this weekend, which should make inroads into their ranks, we welcome mighty GLOUCESTER tonight, who are, I hear, making this game their final work-out before their head-on collision with Moseley in the National K.O. Final at Twickenham next Saturday. I use my words carefully, as they were scheduled to play Cambridge on Monday, and their rumbustuous (sometimes over physical) pack has literally left its imprint on club's forwards the length and breadth of the land.

Having disposed of such formidable sides as Bristol, Coventry and London Welsh with their so-called and much publicised 10-man rugby (is this really so very new?) it needs little imagination to appreciate the size of the PIRATES' task—merely to contain the red and whites this evening—and especially in view of our lack-lustre and unimaginative displays recently. Most serious flaw is, of course, the midfield triangle, where we are completely unable to unearth a fly-half who can insist on taking the ball on the run, or two centres who can run the ball, time a pass, or draw a man. How sadly we have missed Alan Innis this season.

As the national selectors are so slow to appreciate, it is quite useless having good wingers if they are left to pine in solitary confinement occasionally to relieve the boredom by throwing the ball into the line-out (often inaccurately), or scurrying back to cover a full back who, in sheer desperation (memories of poor Peter Knight) comes into the line to try to inject some sadly-needed penetration.

There would seem to be a case for even a national side being based on group selection, subdivided into four units: the front five; back row and scrum half; mid-field triangle; full back and two wingers.

Each of these an attacking echelon—the best clubs grouping to go in *en bloc*! This might preclude England looking on the field just what they are—a heterogeneous collection of individual specialists.

We all congratulate Tommy Palmer on his well-deserved selection for what might well turn out to be a disastrous and ill-conceived England tour of South Africa. Well done, Tommy! On a more cautious note, we hope you, your team-mates and committee have already celebrated and that this year we shall be spared any embarrassing and childish strip-tease antics in the clubhouse tonight—an institution much frequented by genuine lady supporters of all ages and not, by any stretch of the imagination, “camp followers” J.M.J.

P.S.: The Mount's Bay Colts, despite the absence of a county grant this season, are still striving to remain financially self-supporting. Their annual collection takes place this evening. Please give so very generously as in the past.