

1873



1973

CENTENARY MATCH

GLOUCESTER R.F.C.

VERSUS

AN

INTERNATIONAL XV

WEDNESDAY, 3rd OCTOBER

1973 - Kick-off 7.0 p.m.

KINGSHOLM - GLOUCESTER

Official Programme 10p

Lucky Number

671

A REAL CENTENARY WELCOME TO THE INTERNATIONAL XV

(BIENVENUS LES MEMBRES DE L'ÉQUIPE INTERNATIONALE!)

We are informed by the *Gloucester Journal* dated September 15th, 1873, that a meeting was convened at the Spread Eagle Hotel – now, alas no longer in existence – for the purpose of enrolling members for a Football Club for the City. There were about forty-five gentlemen present, we're told and Mr. Frank Hartley was elected captain.

It is doubtful if it even crossed the minds of any of those gentlemen that the club they formed would become one of the most famous in the country; indeed in the world of Rugby football. That, one hundred years later the same Gloucester R.F.C. would be staging its Centenary match on a ground that has won equally world-wide renown.

Truly those gentlemen who gathered in a room at the old Spread Eagle took at the flood that tide in the affairs of men which led on, if not exactly to fortune, to success beyond all their wildest dreams. But it was their efforts, and those of dedicated officials, supporters and players over the past century, that have been responsible for this tremendous attraction at Kingsholm this evening, when Gloucester face one of the toughest assignments in their long and glorious history.

Don Rutherford, the former Gloucester captain, and England and British Lions' full-back, now Technical Administrator to the Rugby Union, has raised an International XV which can veritably be described as a "team of all the talents". Rarely, if ever, has such a formidable and star-studded Rugby team stepped on to Kingsholm's green and pleasant pitch.

We owe a deep dept of gratitude to Don, the while extending a real Gloucester welcome this evening to the brilliant world-famous players who have so willingly supported him and our Club in the centenary celebrations.

Their colleagues in the International XV will no doubt readily forgive us if we reserve a very special welcome to our French friends, all magnificent players previously known to most Kingsholm supporters as legendary, almost magic, names.

(Surtout sont bienvenus les internationaux français tres distingués!) The opportunity to see them and the other stars in action is afforded only to the comparative few, and their appearance here this evening is deeply appreciated by Gloucester and West Country enthusiasts.

May they all thoroughly enjoy the match and their brief stay in our fair city!

(Continued on page 14)

CENTENARY SNIPPETS

While many of us look forward eagerly to this evening's highlight and other exciting fixtures arranged, perhaps we tend to forget the enormous amount of work that has been necessary to make the Centenary season a success. Preliminary meetings were held as long ago as two years and in recent weeks the pressures on secretary Roy Long and his committee have been such that they have had virtually no leisure moments, sometimes, indeed, working into the early hours of the morning.

At last the Centenary book is available; *One Hundred Cherry and White Years* is on sale on the ground this evening – at the extremely reasonable price of 50p, or ten bob, if you prefer it. Every effort was made to make it a Centenary book 'with a difference'. Instead of innumerable pages of records, ancient photographs and short tributes to the club from various sources, interesting articles have been collated.

The book contains 128 pages, with articles and contributions from many distinguished writers and sportsmen – there are over 30 of them! It is not intended to mention any of them here; for the small sum of 50p you may read them all, some humorous, others informative, even slightly remonstrative, and some instructive, but all sincere, from people who know their job and their rugby.

On Friday evening Rugby personalities from many parts of the country will be joining the Gloucester club officials and players at the special Centenary dinner at the Guildhall, when the Guest of Honour will be Mr. Mickie Steele-Bodger, the Rugby Union President.

A word of sincere thanks to colleague John Reason, the *Daily Telegraph* Rugby Correspondent, for supplying the admirable pen pictures of the International XV. It is not the easiest of tasks. Thank you, John!

24 THE GLOUCESTER TEAM

15. P. BUTLER (C) 2C 2T
 14. R. J. CLEWES (C)
 13. ~~R. WHITE (C)~~ T. PALMER (C)
 12. R. JARDINE (C)
 11. R. ETHERIDGE (C)
 10. ~~T. PALMER (C)~~ R. REDWOOD (C) T
 9. J. SPALDING (C)

1. K. RICHARDSON (C) T
 2. M. NICHOLLS (C)
 3. M. BURTON (I) (C)
 4. A. BRINN (I) (C)
 5. J. FIDLER (C)
 6. J. WATKINS (I) (C)
 7. J. HAINES (C) T
 8. D. OWEN (C)

(I) = International (C) = County

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Referee:
 J. JOHNSON
 (London Society)

- FULL BACK Caps 28
 RIGHT WING 9
 CENTRE 25
 CENTRE 18
 LEFT WING 25

- STAND-OFF 17
 SCRUM-HALF 3

- LOOSE HEAD 18
 HOOKER 23
 TIGHT HEAD 30
 LOCK 12
 LOCK 13
 FLANKER 14
 FLANKER 17
 NO. 8 50

THE INTERNATIONAL XV 14

15. P. VILLEPREUX C
 Toulouse and France
 14. J. P. A. G. JANION T T
 Richmond and Eastern Counties and England
 13. J. S. DAWES
 London Welsh and Wales
 12. J. MASO
 Narbonne and France
 11. D. J. DUCKHAM
 Coventry and England
 10. J.-L. BEROT
 Toulouse and France
 9. S. J. SMITH T
 Sale and England

1. I. McLAUCHLAN
 Jordan Hill and Scotland
 2. J. YOUNG
 London Welsh and Wales
 3. A. B. CARMICHAEL
 West of Scotland and Scotland
 4. C. SPANGHERO
 Narbonne and France
 5. C. W. RALSTON
 Richmond and England
 6. N. A. MacEWAN
 Gala and Scotland
 7. A. NEARY
 Broughton Park and England
 8. B. DAUGA
 Mont de Marsan and France

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INTRODUCING GLOUCESTER

by

ARTHUR RUSSELL

As I wrote in the programme notes for the Rugby Union final at Twickenham in April of last year when Gloucester defeated Moseley, it is a lady's privilege to whisper little white lies about her age. But this is not necessarily a peculiarity of the fair sex, for many sportsmen tend to give the relevant statistics a slight twist or two.

Such as the long-serving but still accomplished Gloucester forward who said: "I'm just 28 – give or take six years this way or that!" Which is why these details were diplomatically omitted from that Twickenham programme.

However, for this very special occasion the bold step has been taken of including the statistics of the players, though no reference to Somerset House has been made, nor has the weights and measures inspector visited the team in the dressing room.

Still – give or take a year, even an inch or few pounds – the following statistics are not outrageously inaccurate, even though it may seem that one or two players have taken rather a long time to reach the ripe old age of 30. Nevertheless, every assurance can be given that none of them has yet reached the "tonic-taking" age of 40!

GLOUCESTER TEAM

Players originally selected for this evening's match

PETER BUTLER

Full-back. Age 22. 5 ft. 11 ins., 11 st. 7 lb. Two years ago Peter was virtually an "unknown" playing for Birmingham University, but since that time he has had a meteoric rise to considerable fame as one of the country's most prolific goal-kickers. A local boy, educated at the Crypt School, he immediately won a regular place in the Gloucestershire side last season - his first in top-class rugby - and was honoured with selection for the England Under 23 team.



PETER BUTLER

BOB CLEWES

Winger. Age 23. 5 ft. 10 in., 11 st. 7 lb. Another of the club's younger generation who has twice been their leading try-scorer. A thrustful and elusive runner, he was seriously injured in a County friendly match against Glamorgan two seasons ago, but made a remarkable recovery and quickly regained his shattered confidence.

BOB WHITE

Centre or winger. Age 25. 5 ft. 10½ in., 14 st. Joined the club from neighbouring Cheltenham three seasons ago. Bob makes full use of his physique with his powerful bursts and is a difficult player to stop when going 'flat out', as many opponents have found to their cost. Like John Fidler, he won his England cap for N.A.B.C. in their international against Wales and is one of the many products of Cheltenham Colts - the "Norman Rees nursery"



BOB CLEWES

RICHARD JARDINE

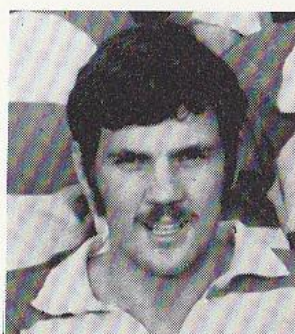
Centre. Age 25. 6 ft. 2 in., 13 st. Another of the Cherry and Whites' police officers who has rapidly shot to the forefront in the past two or three years and has won his place in the Gloucestershire side, whom he helped to their title of county champions last year. Richard has also played for the British Police in their 'international' against the French Police.

RON ETHERIDGE

Winger. Age 23. 5 ft. 9½ in., 12 st. 4 lb. A convert from full-back, in which position he started his career with the club and won a Scottish international trial. But though Scottish by birth Ron has lived in the city since early childhood and learned his rugby with Saintbridge - then known as Central - School.



BOB WHITE



RICHARD JARDINE



RON ETHERIDGE

TOM PALMER

Outside-half or centre. Age 29. 5 ft. 10½ in., 12 st. Gloucester's valuable 'import' from the Duchy, he has been Cornwall's skipper for several years. Though preferring the outside-half berth, Tom is equally accomplished a performer at centre and has even appeared with distinction at full-back. He has been an England reserve for the back division and fully deserved his selection for the South African tour last year.



TOM PALMER

JOHN SPALDING

Scrum-half. Age 28. 5 ft. 8 in., 12 st. 8 lb. While it might be true to say that John has taken over from Mickie Booth, he is a highly competent performer whose undoubted talents have been recognised by Gloucestershire, for whom he has played with distinction, holding his own, so to speak, in spite of the numerous fine scrum-halves available to the County a few years ago. A sturdy little character who calmly rides the buffeting of opposing forwards twice his size.



JOHN SPALDING

KEITH RICHARDSON

Prop. Age 30. 6 ft. 1 in., 16 st. Keith is one of those very accomplished players of whom it is often said that he is grossly under-rated, perhaps because some other capable performer has had the good fortune to have suddenly sprung more readily to the public eye through the Press. Formerly with Bath, however, he has proved a tremendous asset to Gloucester and his great ability has been recognised by Dorset and Wilts, who have made him almost an automatic choice for their championship matches in recent years. He succeeded Don Rutherford as master in charge of sport at Wycliffe College and has carried on the fine tradition of Rugby football there.

MIKE NICHOLLS

Hooker. Age 31. 5 ft. 9 in., 12 st. 10 lb. The Skipper; and rightly regarded as one of the greatest leaders in the club's 100 years' history. Mike fosters a tremendous club spirit and augments his hooking duties with work in the loose that appears to heed the historic exhortation of Henry V - "Imitate the action of the tiger; stiffen the sinews . . . disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage".

MIKE BURTON

Prop. Age 27. 6 ft. 2 in., 16 st. 4 lb. One of the club's three internationals, having won his first England cap, together with Alan Brinn, against Wales in 1972, though he missed last season's international matches because of a broken leg sustained, oddly enough, in squad training with the England party. An irrepressible character, "full of wise saws and modern instances", who not only knows all the rugby songs, but claims to have written them.



KEITH RICHARDSON



MIKE NICHOLLS



MIKE BURTON

ALAN BRINN

Lock. Age 31. 6 ft. 3 in., 16 st. Alan, quite rightly, has often been referred to as "the gentleman of rugby football". After winning his England cap he too had wretched luck, injuring his ankle in training, thus missing the next international match and the game with London Welsh in the quarter final of the R.U. knock-out competition two years ago. Perhaps a 'genial giant' would be an apt description of this seemingly lugubrious, but intrinsically happy personality.



ALAN BRINN

JOHN FIDLER

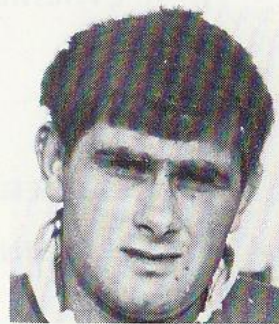
Lock. Age 25. 6 ft. 4 in., 17 st. 8 lb. The 'tall boy' of the club and another capture from Cheltenham. A police officer, he is popularly known as 'Officer Dibble', but there is no hint of comedy nor the subject matter for a cartoonist in his hard, dedicated approach to his work in the line-out and loose ruck. John has been known to take umbrage if beaten - even only once - by an opponent, irrespective of reputation or status.

JOHN WATKINS

Flanker. Age 26. 6 ft. ¼ in., 14 st. The club's third international, John has rapidly established since leaving the local club, Gordon League - which has supplied several England players in its proud history - less than five years ago. He is probably the greatest blind-side flanker in the country today and played a leading part last month in England's magnificent win over the All Blacks 'down under'. Not without justification is he termed "the blond bombshell".

JOHN HAINES

Flanker. Age 24. 6 ft., 13 st. Like John Watkins, a product of Gordon League. John 'Happy Henry' is a terrier for work and has a turn of speed that surprises many opponents until they become accustomed to his wiles. He is the natural successor to Dick Smith and county championship honours cannot long be denied him, for he has already appeared in Gloucestershire 'friendly' matches.



JOHN FIDLER

DAVE OWEN

No. 8 or flanker. Age 31. 6 ft. 2 in., 14 st. 8 lb. A great club man who has played more than 250 matches for Gloucester, but has never received some of those honours which have gone to less talented players. Yet Dave has played in three county championship matches for Gloucestershire and in one, against Devon, scored three tries - only to be dropped for the next game! Still an outstanding forward, however, he had further consolation in being selected for his native county against Monmouthshire at Kingsholm last Monday.



JOHN WATKINS



JOHN HAINES



DAVE OWEN