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
A REAL CENTENARY WELCOME
TO THE
INTERNATIONAL XV

(BIENTENUS 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 Hatley 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 rated 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 highlights 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 30p, 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 sportmen – there are over 30 of them! It is not intended to mention any of them here; for the small sum of 30p you may read them all, some humorous, others informative, 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. Mickle 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!

THE GLOUCESTER TEAM

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<tr>
<td>FULL BACK</td>
<td>P. BENTLEY</td>
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<td>CENTRE</td>
<td>R. J. CLAYTON</td>
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<td>LEFT WING</td>
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<td>SCRUM HALF</td>
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1. K. RICHARDSON (C) T
2. M. MICKLE (C)
3. M. BURTON (H) (C)
4. A. BROWN (H) (C)
5. J. FIDLER (C)
6. J. WATKINS (H) (C)
7. J. HAINES (C) T
8. D. OWEN (C)

1. I. MCALPINE (C) T
2. J. YOUNG
3. A. B. CARMICHAEL
4. C. SPANDEY
5. C. W. RALSTON
6. N. A. MACDONAL
7. A. NEARY
8. B. DAVID

0 = International, 0 = County
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 lbs. 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 open-side rugby – and was honoured with selection for the England Under 23 team.

BOB CLEWES
Winger. Age 23. 5 ft. 10 ins., 11 st. 7 lbs. Another of the club’s younger generation who has since been their leading try-scorer. A powerful 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 ins., 14 st. Joined the club from neighbouring Cheltenham three seasons ago. Bob makes full use of his physique with his powerful kicks and as a different player to stop whom going flat out, to many opponents have found to their cost. Like John Fiddler, he won his England cap for N.A.R.C. in their international against Wales and is one of the many products of Cheltenham Colts – the “Norman Bees nursery”.

RICHARD JARDINE
Centre. Age 23. 6 ft. 2 ins., 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 ins., 12 st. 4 lbs. 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 St. Andrew’s – then known as Central School.

TOM PALMER
Outside-half or centre. Age 29. 5 ft 10½ in., 13 st. Gloucester's valuable 'import'
from the Darcy, he has been Cornwall's skipper for several years. Though
performing the outside-half berth, Tom is equally accomplished as a performer at
centre and has won a place 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.

JOHN SPALDING
Scrum-half. Age 28. 5 ft 8½ 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 recognized by Gloucestershire, for whom he has
played with distinction, holding his own, so to speak, in spite of the numerous
fine scrum-halfes available to the County a few years ago. A steady little character who calmly rides the buffeting of opposing forwards twice his size.

KEITH RICHARDSON
Prop. Age 30. 6 ft. 1 in., 16 st. Keith is one of the most accomplished players of
whom it is often said that he is greatly 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 recognized
by England, who have made him almost an automatic choice for the
championship matches in recent years. He succeeded Don Rutherford as master
in charge of sport at Wykeham 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 Slipper, and rightly regarded as one
of the greatest leaders in the club's 100 years history, Mike is the perfect man for the
hooking duties with work in the loose that appears to heed the historic exhortation of Henry V — "imitate the action of the tiger; still the sneer...  disquire fair nature with hand-favoured raps".

MIKE BURTON
Prop. Age 27. 6 ft. 2 in., 16 st. 4 lb. One of the club's three internationals, having
been capped by England, together with Alan Rams, against Wales in 1972, though
he missed last season's international matches because of a broken leg sustained
when he was with his squad training with the England party. An irreproachable
difference, "full of wise saws and modern instances", who not only knows all the
rugby songs, but claims to have written them.
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 has had several injuries 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 great giant would be an apt description of this seemingly boyish man, but invariably happy personality.

JOHN FIDLER
Lock. Age 32. 6 ft 4 in. 17 st. 8 lb. The "tail end" of the club and another capture from Cheltenham. A police officer, he is popularly known as "Officer D.M.H.", but there is no hint of cussedness and the subject matter for a cartoonist in his band, dedicated approach to his work in the line-out and loose pack. John has been known to take a beard or a beard - even only once - by an opponent, irrespective of reputation or status.

JOHN WATKINS
Flanker. Age 28. 6 ft 1 in. 14 st. The club's third international. John has rapidly established himself as the best club player in the country. The greatest flanker in the country and the leading flank forward in England's magnificent win over the All Blacks' "down under". Not without justification has become "the blind man's stick".

JOHN HAINES
Flanker. Age 31. 6 ft 1 in. 12 st. Like John Watkins, a product of Gloucester League. John "Happy Henry" is a mariner 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 Jack Smith and always has been the team's first choice for county championship matches. Possesses a calm and cool head but never shies away from a fight.

DAVE OWEN
No. 8 or further. 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 any of the prizes 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, and still in contention for his native county against Monmouthshire at Kingsholm last Monday.