

COVENTRY FOOTBALL CLUB RUGBY UNION



1874

Centenary Season

1974



C. Holmes and R. Piggott (No. 14) fight for a loose ball in last week's Extras tussle with London Scottish 'A'.

Photographs by courtesy of the Coventry Evening Telegraph

**The Red House
Group**



COVENTRY

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Leyland Leopard Luxury Coaches For Hire

Coventry v Gloucester

SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER 1973

Kick-off 2.15pm

Programme

5p

Referee : Mr.D.W.Jones (Notts.Lincs.& Derby Society) Today's match ball has been presented by C.U.C.Clifford Ltd.

Coventry

Gloucester

No.	Name		Name	No.
1	S.Martin	Full Back	E. J. F. Stephens	15
2	J.P. Bolton	Right Wing	S. Dix	14
3	B. Corless	Right Centre	J.A. Bayliss	13
4	P. Preece	Left Centre	R. Jardine	12
5	D. Duckham (Capt.)	Left Wing	J. Dix	11
6	A. Cowman	Stand Off	N. D. Evans	10
7	W. J. Gittings	Scrum Half	J. H. Spalding	9
8	K. E. Fairbrother	Forwards	K. Richardson	1
9	J. Gallagher		M. Nicholls (Capt.)	2
10	F. Cotton		P. J. Blakeway	3
11	I. Darnell		A. Brinn	4
12	D. Simpson		P. J. Winnel	5
13	R. Cardwell		D. W. Owen	6
14	L. Rolinson		J. S. Jarrett	8
15	R. Walker		J. H. Haines	7

COVENTRY FOOTBALL CLUB (Rugby Union)

OUNDON ROAD, COVENTRY

President: T. VENN.

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

17 Asthill Grove, Coventry. Telephone: 24812



Ah, Gloucester. Oh, Gloucester. Or even Ugh, Gloucester. Our neighbours from over the county border always seem to stimulate a variety of reactions whenever their name is mentioned.

Far be it from us, even in the euphoria of at last writing some Saturday afternoon notes again after too long an absence, to suppose that this afternoon's game will necessarily confirm any - or all - of those cryptic comments.

We can happily leave the respective XVs to work out for themselves who says and does what. The fact is that games with Gloucester, for a number of reasons, tend to stick in the memory more than most. There was even one glorious occasion (October 24, 1964, to be precise) when the result was 45-nil - and if it had been Gloucester who'd scored the 45 we wouldn't have been so ready to mention the fact today.

Since that balmy afternoon, the results have not been quite so spectacular, even if they have been consistent. Gloucester has won only once in 10 visits to Coundon Road; we've done rather better with three wins in 10 trips to Kingsholm.

Included among Gloucester's nine "non-wins", though, was that 6-6 draw they achieved here the season before last which put us out of the R.F.U. Knockout competition and excited a lot of comment on the comportment of the game afterwards. It's about time that was quietly forgotten and we got on with the immediate business in hand.

A word of congratulation is due to Barry Nannes, who has returned from the wilderness this season to gain a place in the South-West and West side for the regional trial match. Well done, Barry. It's nice to see you back in the selection reckoning again.

Footnote: Far be it from us to "plug" anything that Moseley do, but their Centenary Brochure is an absolutely superb effort which will provide hours of fascinating reading for anyone interested in Midlands Rugby football.

SECRETARY SPEAKS:

Today's game being the last on which a programme will appear before Christmas, we would take this opportunity of extending the season's greetings to all members and supporters. Despite the present travel difficulties we hope that as many as possible will make the short trip to Moseley on Boxing Day to support the First Team in its efforts to complete the double over their hosts.

January will see the usual crop of fixtures against Welsh opposition, Neath and Swansea visiting Coundon Road on 5th and 26th respectively with an away match at Cardiff on 12th. There will be another interesting game on 26th when we visit Orrell, who provided such lively opposition in the Knock-Out cup last year, with what will be virtually an Extra 1st XV although "billed" as the 1st XV.

Finally congratulations to Warwickshire on their narrow victory at Beeston this week and thus winning the Midland Group of the County Championship. They have now qualified for a semi-final game at Coundon Road in February against the winners of the Gloucestershire v Buckinghamshire quarter-final.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

We are hoping to run a coach to the Knock-Out cup game at Burton next Saturday leaving from the club at 12 noon and returning early evening, and anyone interested should contact Ken Lomas after today's game. We will also run a trip to Cardiff on 12th January if enough support is forthcoming and anyone interested should give their name to Ken Lomas.

Centenary Telegraphs at 3p, Scarves at £2.30 and Centenary Ties at £1.50 are available from our office - why not give your friends a tie for Christmas.

CENTENARY DINNER

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Hotel Leofric on 23rd January 1974 and tickets are now available at £4 each. This function is open to males only and Dinner Jackets will be worn. Applications for members and one guest can now be made on the forms available at the Supporters' Club office or from the club steward, or alternatively postal applications can be made direct to Tony Millerchip at 7 Knoll Croft, Coventry. Applications for further tickets will be dependent on places being available.

KNOCK-OUT CUP

Tickets for the Burton game next Saturday are on sale today from the Treasurer's office as follows: very limited stand tickets at £1, ground at 40p and childrens' tickets at 20p. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the clubhouse between 7pm and 9pm on Tuesday and Thursday of next week.

Season's Greetings to all readers from your Programme Editor Richard Parsons.

PETER PREECE

Peter is yet another of the International threequarters playing for the Coventry club produced by King Henry VIII school. He has always been a keen sportsman and joined the Coventry club, which had once been graced by his International fly half father Ivor, after a good grounding in school's rugby.

Those of us who remember Peter as a rather frail looking youth when he first wore the Coventry shirt were soon proved wrong by his performances on the field. He rapidly improved and continues to amaze with the strength of his tackling - who can forget his remarkable display of tackling for the Midland Counties West which destroyed the All Blacks midfield last year.

Peter has always been in favour of a "running" game and would be far happier to see the Coventry side run the ball more often, a sentiment with which many of us would agree. He prefers to play in the threequarter line rather than at fly half where he played some of his early rugby and is happiest at centre where he feels he is more in the heart of the game.

Rated as the high point of his career was the English victory in the World Sevens competition at Murrayfield earlier this year and he was particularly pleased with the victory over the Welsh Sevens. He finds it very difficult to pick out one particular try as outstanding, preferring to remember them all, but I will venture to point out the importance of the first try he scored at Orrell in last year's Knock-Out cup which gave us a lead to defend until our final scoring burst. Unlike many of today's players he expresses a great enjoyment in playing County Rugby where he particularly enjoys the freedom of the play.

Outside the game he is a bachelor and his interests are generally sporting including fishing, squash and cricket amongst the most important.

