WELCOME TO THE RED ROSE!

This afternoon we extend a very cordial welcome to the Lancashire team and officials, with whom we have had to many happy encounters in the past. This semi-final will be the fourth time in the last seven years that the two counties have met in the later stages of the championship and we look forward to another enjoyable and exciting game today.

J. S. MARSH, President, G.R.F.U.

CHAMPIONSHIP CHATTER

Three months ago Gloucestershire were the county champions for the 11th time when they defeated Lancashire at Blundellsands by 22 – 12. In the current campaign our Northern friends, having, we might say, reached the highest point of all their progress, will undoubtedly be asking, like the Yehudi of old, “Shall we not revenge?” Whatever other opinions may be, two of the strongest sides in the country will be battling for honours this afternoon and a memorable tussle seems assured.

Gloucestershire have reached the semi-final by defeating Cornwall at Redruth, 9 – 6; Devon at Bristol, 34 – 6; Somerset at Taunton, 15 – 9; and Herefordshire in the quarter-final at Cowley Green, by 29 – 7. And it is interesting to note that of the 87 points scored, no fewer than 35 have come from the accurate boot of Peter Butler.

Lancashire’s record in this competition is: Lost to Cheshire at Fylde, 12 – 26; beat Durham at Hartlepool, 24 – 11; beat Northumberland at Newcastle, 15 – 12; beat Cumberland and Westmorland at Kendal, 21 – 17; beat Yorkshire at Vale of Lune, 17 – 4; beat Cheshire in the reply at New Brighton, 13 – 3.

Congratulations to Bristol on reaching the quarter-finals of the John Player Cup competition. Their next match on this ground is against neighbouring Bath on Friday, March 5, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Finally, the Gloucestershire R.F.U. expresses sincere thanks and appreciation to the Bristol club for the use of the ground, to all officials and the ladies, and to all who have supported today’s game.

ARTHUR RUSSELL

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 15pts (37; 33)

15. P. E. Butler * (Gloucester) 1pen; 3pts
14. R. J. Cleaves (Gloucester) 3pts
13. J. A. Baylis (Capt.) (Gloucester) 3pts
12. C. J. Williams (Bristol) 3pts
11. A. J. Morley * (Bristol) 1pt
10. C. G. Williams (Gloucester) 1pt
9. P. Kingston * (Gloucester) 1pt
8. B. G. Neillie * (Cardiff) 1pt
7. J. V. Pullin * (Bristol) 1pt
6. M. A. Burton * (Gloucester) 1pt
5. J. H. Fidler (Gloucester) 1pt
4. R. A. Powell (Llanelli) 1pt
3. A. W. Watkins * (Gloucester) 1pt
2. D. M. Rollitt * (Bristol) 1pt
1. M. J. Rafter (Bristol) 1pt

Lancashire 7pts (1pt; 6)

16. D. J. Gullick (Orrell) 1pt
15. M. Senior (Liverpool) 1pt
14. W. Lyon (Orrell) 1pt
13. A. M. Bond (Broughton Park) 1pt
12. R. J. Brain (West Park) 1pt
11. T. E. K. Atkinson (Fylde) 1pt
10. J. Waring (Orrell) 1pt
9. J. Blackhurst (Warrington) 1pt
8. C. D. Fisher * (Warrington) 1pt
7. P. E. Cotton * (Sale) 1pt
6. A. R. Trikey (Sale) 1pt
5. M. Hovington * (Fylde) 1pt
4. R. N. Craig (Sale) 1pt
3. J. O’Driscoll (London Irish) 1pt
2. A. Neary (Capt.) * (Broughton Park) 1pt
1. A. Neary (Capt.) * (Broughton Park) 1pt

Referee: N. SANSIO (L.S.R.F.U. & Scotland)

Teach Judge: A. M. LEES

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