

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Rugby Football Union**



**Tour to
South Africa
May/June 1976**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE TO SOUTH AFRICA



It is a great pleasure to be given the opportunity to write these few words for this Tour Brochure and to congratulate the Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union upon mounting its forthcoming tour to South Africa. Gloucestershire go as the reigning County Champions of England with an unequalled record of success in the County Championship especially in recent years. Much will therefore be expected of them on the field and, knowing them as I do and looking at the experience of their touring party, I feel sure that they will do England proud.

I had the good fortune to join the camp followers for the last three weeks of the 1968 Lions Tour of South Africa so what I can certainly tell Gloucestershire, many of whose players have in any case been there before, is that they will enjoy the most wonderful hospitality in this beautiful country. It is my hope that their tour may also contribute something, even if only a little, towards a better understanding of our differing problems as two great rugby playing countries.

Finally may I wish Gloucestershire in every possible way a happy and successful tour and may they make many new friends which is really what the game is all about. I know that they can be relied upon to uphold the traditions for which they themselves and the game are renowned.

G. TARN BAINBRIDGE

President, The Rugby Football Union
1975/76

GLOUCESTERSHIRE – TRULY ENGLAND'S RUGBY CHAMPIONS!

By
Arthur Russell

There are those rugby critics who, in recent years, have been advocating the discontinuance of the English county championship in the interests of the game nationally. They fail to give any logical explanation for such a strange viewpoint and what they really mean, one strongly suspects, is that they have become frustrated, even soured, over Gloucestershire's domination of the competition.

Some have grudgingly admitted that it has become a question, not of which counties will reach the final, but nowadays which county will meet Gloucestershire in the final. For in what was their seventh successive appearance in the final—a record in the history of the English county championship—Gloucestershire beat Middlesex handsomely by 24 points to 9 at the Richmond Athletic Ground in March to win the title for the third successive time.

In that match their England full-back, Peter Butler, the leading points' scorer in the country over the past three years, left all known individual records trailing in his wake by scoring all the champions' points with six penalty goals and a try to which he also added the conversion.

His prodigious kicking, indeed, has prompted those same critics to suggest that the formula of Gloucestershire's success is based on a formidable pack of forwards plus the accurate Butler boot. They have conveniently forgotten that, apart from Butler, the champions can boast three other England internationals in their back division.

But current criticisms—and eulogies—become pointless when one considers Gloucestershire's record over the years, many of the feats being achieved long before the present players were born. Founded in 1878 the champions entered the national county competition in the season 1890–91 and immediately made their impact on the scene by reaching the semi-final, where they lost to Lancashire.

Since those far-off days Gloucestershire, apart from a strange spell in the years following the Second World War when Warwickshire gained temporary control, have dominated the championship.

They have appeared in 30 semi-finals, have reached the final on 22 occasions and have won the title 13 times—four more than any other county, despite those disastrous post-war years. Their ranks have always bristled with England Internationals, but in addition they have supplied players to Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Gloucestershire supplied no fewer than nine players to the England party which toured Australia early last summer—another record! The current party touring South Africa contains ten internationals; but the fact that only three gained recognition for their country in the past winter's international matches reflects sadly on the strange thinking of the national selectors and no doubt accounts for England's depressing record.

....Truly have Gloucestershire earned the proud title of England's rugby champions, with two of the country's leading clubs, Gloucester and Bristol, providing nearly all their players!

TOUR PARTY



No. 1. BARRY GEORGE NELMES (Cardiff)

Prop. Age 27 Nickname "Buller" Height 6'2" Weight 17½ stone

Essentially a Bristol player becoming an "exile" when he moved to Cardiff in the course of his employment. "Disappeared" from the first-class rugby scene for nearly two years, but returned to display all his skills. Represented the Western Counties against three touring countries and the South of England against the All Blacks. Has appeared for the Barbarians and was capped for England against Australia last summer. A Sales Representative.



No. 2. JOHN VIVIAN PULLIN (Bristol) Vice Captain

Hooker. Age. 31. Height 5'11" Weight 14st.7lb.

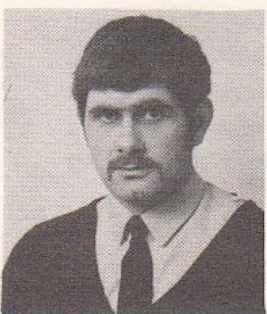
Holder of the record number of England Caps—42. Toured Australia with England 1975. Made seven appearances for British Lions; three v. South Africa and four v. New Zealand. Farmer.



No. 3. MICHAEL ALAN BURTON (Gloucester)

Prop. Age 30. Height 6'2". Weight 16st.9lb.

The current England prop, a British Lion and a Barbarian. A member of the England party who toured Australia in 1975. Has also represented Berkshire, the county of his birth, in the Championship. An irrepressible character; not only knows all the rigger songs, but says he wrote the majority in his odd moments. Product of a local Gloucester school Longlevens. An oil company Sales Representative.



No. 4. JOHN HOWARD FIDLER (Gloucester)

Lock. Age 27. Height 6'4" Weight 17st.6lb.

"Big John" began his rugby career with Cheltenham. Played for England in a National Association of Boys' Clubs' International Match against Wales. Has represented South Western Counties and the South and South Western Counties against national touring sides. Has also played in two England Trials in 1974 and 1975. Toured Rhodesia and South Africa with Public School Wanderers in May 1975. A Police Officer.



No. 21. DAVID PHILIP SORRELL (Bristol)

Outside half. Age 20. Height 6'. Weight 12st.4lbs.
County Colts Cap and Bristol's leading points scorer this season.
Heating Engineer.



No. 22. RICHAR MOGG (Gloucester)

Centre or Wing. Age 20. Height 5' 11". Weight 12st.7lbs.
England Colts Cap. Civil Engineering Apprentice.



No. 23. BRIAN JOHN VINE (Lydney)

Age 25. Height 5'9". Weight 11st.9lbs.
Previously played for Gloucester. Storeman.



No. 24. RICHARD JARDINE (Gloucester)

Centre. Age 28.
One of the two police officers in the side. Joined Gloucester from
the County Police team. Has represented English and British Police.



No. 9. PETER KINGSTON (Gloucester)

Scrum-half. Age 24. Height 5'8". Weight 11st.

Played in all of Gloucestershire's matches last season. In 1974 played in the County Championship for North Midlands while living in the area. Formerly played for St. Paul's College, Lydney and Moseley before joining Gloucester last season on taking an appointment locally. Capped for England against Australia last summer and also previously represented England Schools under 19. Physical Education Teacher.



No. 10 CHRISTOPHER GARETH WILLIAMS (Gloucester)

Outside half. Age 25.

His partnership with Peter Kingston for Lydney Grammar School Lydney, England Schools and St. Paul's College became practically a legend in the north and west of the County. Chris has also played for the Royal Air Force and the Combined Services. Won his first England Cap against France this season. R.A.F. Officer.



No. 11 ALAN JOHN GEORGE MORLEY (Bristol)

Wing. Age 25. Height 5'10". Weight 13st.

Current England winger. Began Rugby career with Bristol at age of 18 and has scored more than 125 tries for his club. Toured South Africa twice with England 1972, and with British Lions in 1974. Has scored over 20 tries for Gloucestershire, Toured Australia with England in 1975. Qualified Valuer and Auctioneer.



No. 12. CHRISTOPHER JOHN WILLIAMS (Bristol)

Centre Threequarter. Age 25. Height 5'10". Weight 12½st.

Played for England under 15 Schoolboys, Western Counties v. All Blacks, and for S. W. Counties v. Australia Aero Engineer.



No. 13. JOHN ALEXANDER BAYLISS (Gloucester) Captain

Centre. Age 34.

Has also Captained England in a Youth International. Numerous injuries in a long career, including a broken neck three years ago. First played for Gloucestershire in 1961. Stylish batsman in senior club cricket. Runs own Green Grocery Business.



No. 14. ROBERT CLEWES (Gloucester)

Right Wing. Age 26. Height 5'10". Weight 11st.7lbs.

Regular choice for Gloucester since 1968 and leading try scorer for club for 6 seasons. Played in the final against Warwickshire in 1971/2. Contract Manager for a Construction Company.



No. 15. PETER EDWARD BUTLER (Gloucester)

Full back. Age 24. Height 6'0". Weight 12st.2lbs.

In only his fourth season in first-class rugby, and was the country's leading points scorer for three years. Generally recognised as the "king of the place kickers". Educated at Crypt School and Birmingham University, where he was Rugby Captain. Played for U.A.U. and for S. W. Counties against All Blacks and Australia. Was capped for England against Australia last summer and played for England against France this year. Industrial Chemist.



No. 16. GORDON ALAN FRANK SARGENT (Lydney)

Prop. Age 26. Height 5'11". Weight 15st.5lbs. Nickname "Sarge"

First played for Lydney at 16 years of age and then for Gloucestershire Schoolboys and Gloucestershire Colts. Captain of Lydney for last two years. Insurance Agent.



No. 17. FREDERICK CHARLES REED (Gloucester)

Hooker. Age 27. Weight 13st. Height 5'10"

Engineering Training Instructor.



No. 18. ALVAN HAROLD TROUGHTON (Bristol)

Lock. Age 22. Height 6'6". Weight 16¼st. Nickname 'Alf'

Has played for Coventry and Midlands Counties under 23.
Medical Student.



No. 19. ALAN BRINN (Gloucester)

Lock. Age 34.

Has been referred to as 'The gentleman of Rugby Football'. Won his first England Cap only four seasons ago. Has made more appearances for Gloucester's Senior XV than any other player in the club's history. Educated at High Wycombe, in Rhodesia and Northern Ireland. Runs his own sports' outfitters business.



No. 20. JOHN HENRY HAINES (Gloucester)

Flanker. Age 27.

Rapidly moved to the top flight on joining Gloucester from a junior club. With his two international colleagues forms a speedy and constructive back row. A wholesale Meat Caterer.



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Centre. Age 28.
One of the two police officers in the side. Joined Gloucester from
the County Police team. Has represented English and British Police.



No. 25. RICHARD MARK HARDING (Bristol)

Scrum half. Age 22. Height 5'8". Weight 11st. Nickname 'Corky'
England Under 19 Schools International. Cambridge University Blue
1973/74. England Trials 1975. Western Counties v. Australia 1975.
Played for Somerset and Gloucestershire and was in Gloucestershire's
Championship winning side in 1973/74. Has toured Rhodesia and
Japan with Cambridge University. Auctioneer and Land Estate
Consultant.

No. 26. JOHN S. MARSH.

TOUR MANAGER. President of the Gloucestershire Rugby Football
Union. Hon. Treasurer of the Bristol Club. Chartered Surveyor.

No. 27. DAVID J. WALTER.

ASSISTANT TOUR MANAGER. Hon. Match & Team Secretary of
Gloucestershire RFU. Member of the Cheltenham Club.
Retired business executive.

No. 28. JAMES R. E. BRYAN.

Represents Gloucestershire on the Rugby Football Union. Chairman
of the Bristol Club. Company Director.

No. 29. GODFREY CULLIMORE.

Represents the Stroud Club on the County Executive Committee.
County Selector. Farmer.

No. 30. S. THOMAS DAY

President elect of Gloucestershire RFU. Represents the Gloucester
Club. Chairman of the County selectors. Engineer.

No. 31. A. THOMAS VOYCE.

Past President of the Rugby Football Union. Past President of the
Gloucestershire RFU. President of the Gloucester Club. Former
British Lion, England and Barbarian.

Tour Itinerary

MAY

Tuesday 25th	London	Depart Heathrow on flight SA225 at 1815 hours.
Wednesday 26th	Salisbury	Arrive 0945 hours. Transfer by motor-coach to Meikles Hotel, Cecil Square Salisbury, Rhodesia Tel. 702351.
Saturday	..	MATCH VERSUS RHODESIA
Sunday 30th	..	Transfer to the Airport for flight RH161 0830 hours
	Johannesburg	Arrive 1000 hours. Change aircraft and depart on flight SA431 1145 hours.
	Port Elizabeth	Arrive 1320 hours. Transfer by motor-coach to:
	Graaff-Reinet	and stay at Panorama Hotel, Box 314 Magazine Hill, Graaff-Reinet, Eastern Cape Province, Tel. 1231 Grams. Panotel Graaff-Reinet.
Monday 31st	..	MATCH VERSUS NORTH EASTERN CAPE
JUNE		
Tuesday 1st	..	Depart by motorcoach at 1000 hours
	Port Elizabeth	Arrive and stay at Marine Hotel Box 501 Marine Drive, Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth. Tel. 21911 Grams. Marinotel.
Wednesday 2nd	..	Transfer by motorcoach to Uitenhage.
	Uitenhage	MATCH VERSUS E P COUNTRY XV
	Port Elizabeth	Return to Marine Hotel after match.
Friday 4th	..	Depart on flight SA651 1300 hours.
	George	Arrive 1430 hours. Transfer to Hawthorndene Hotel and stay. Box 1 Witfontein Road, George. Tel. 3301 Grams. Hawthorndene George.
Saturday 5th	..	MATCH VERSUS SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICTS
Sunday 6th	..	Depart on flight SA651 1450 hours
	Cape Town	Arrive 1635 hours. Transfer to Ambassador Hotel, 43 Victoria Road, Bantry Bay Cape Town Tel. 49-6170 Grams. Ambassotel.
Monday 7th	..	Transfer to the South African Rugby Board at 1630 hours for cocktail party. Transfer to the Airport for flight SA340 at 1915 hours.

	Johannesburg	Arrive at 2105 hours. Transfer to Union Hotel,
	Pretoria	Box 1739, 572 Church Street, Pretoria Tel. 48-6671
Wednesday 9th	..	MATCH VERSUS NORTHERN TRANSVAAL
Thursday 10th	..	Transfer by motorcoach to the Crest Hotel
	Johannesburg	Box 17698 1 Abdel Road, Berea, Johannesburg.
		Tel. 44-6226 Grams. Crestotel.
Friday 11th	..	At Leisure
Saturday 12th	..	MATCH VERSUS TRANSVAAL
Sunday 13th	..	Transfer by motorcoach to Airport for flight SA717
		at 1715 hours.
	Windhoek	Arrive at 1910 hours. Transfer to the Safari Motel
		Box 3900 Republic Road, Windhoek, South West
		Africa, Tel. 26591 Grams. Toermotels
Wednesday 16th	..	MATCH VERSUS SOUTH WEST AFRICA
Thursday 17th	..	Transfer to the Airport for flight SA239 at 1415
		hours.
	Johannesburg	Arrive 1600 hours. Connecting flight SA230 at
		1800 hours
Friday 18th	London	Arrive Heathrow 1030 hours.