

Nº . 1459

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RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION  
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP  
QUARTER FINAL 1976-77



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

v.

**OXFORDSHIRE**

at

**KINGSHOLM GROUND, GLOUCESTER**

SATURDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1976.

Kick-off 2.45 p.m.

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - - - 5p

G. E. WRIGHT, Hon Secretary.

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K.B. Printing Services, Bristol. Tel. 553067

## Gloucestershire

Colours: Red

15. **\*P. E. BUTLER**  
Gloucester
14. **R. CLEWES**  
Gloucester
13. **C. J. WILLIAMS**  
Bristol
12. **D. P. SORRELL**  
Bristol
11. **R. R. MOGG**  
Gloucester
10. **\*C. G. WILLIAMS**  
Gloucester
9. **\*P. KINGSTON**  
Gloucester
1. **G. A. F. SARGENT**  
Gloucester
2. **S. G. F. MILLS**  
Gloucester
3. **\*M. A. BURTON**  
Gloucester
4. **N. POMPHREY**  
Bristol
5. **S. B. BOYLE**  
Gloucester
6. **\*J. A. WATKINS (Capt.)**  
Gloucester
8. **\*D. M. ROLLITT**  
Bristol
7. **M. RAFTER**  
Bristol
- Replacements:
16. **G. TROTT**  
Stroud
17. **R. POWELL**  
Llanelli
18. **E. PINKNEY**  
Gloucester
19. **J. WALTER**  
St. Paul's College
20. **I. WILKINS**  
St. Paul's College
21. **R. HARDING**  
Bristol

Full Backs

Right Wing

Right Centre

Left Centre

Left Wing

Outside Half

Scrum Half

Forwards

\*International

## Oxfordshire

Colours: White

15. **M. HODGSON**  
Oxford
14. **N. POLLARD**  
Oxford
13. **G. HORNER**  
Henley
12. **G. LEWIS**  
London Welsh
11. **E. SANDBACH**  
Oxford
10. **R. TUPPER**  
Oxford
9. **M. GROOM**  
Oxford
1. **G. MCKENZIE**  
Oxford
2. **A. JENKINS**  
Henley
3. **I. HEYWOOD**  
Northampton
4. **J. MAWLE**  
Bedford
5. **J. ORWIN**  
Gloucester
6. **D. OSBORNE**  
Northampton
8. **J. TAYLOR**  
Oxford
7. **D. JACKSON** (Capt.)  
Bedford
- Replacements:
- J. WARD**  
Henley
- N. BLOODWORTH**  
Henley
- K. ALFREDS**  
Henley
- D. PITT**  
Oxford
- R. KAYS**  
Oxford Old Boys
- I. GALE**  
Henley

Touch Judge:  
**H. J. WILLIAMS**  
Gloucester Referees' Society North Midlands Referees' Society

Referee:  
**K. A. PATTINSON**

Touch Judge:  
**D. HOWARD**  
Oxford Referees' Society

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Again it is my very pleasant duty and privilege to extend a cordial welcome to a neighbouring county; and this afternoon the challenge comes from the East as our old friends and rivals, Oxfordshire, pay us their first visit for several years. Yet it will not seem so long to older supporters since Oxfordshire came, saw, and conquered; indeed, defeated our County twice in successive years, by 6 points to 3 in 1964-65 and 16 points to 8 the following season. In the current campaign Oxfordshire have also achieved three splendid victories to become convincing champions of the Southern group and we can look forward to another exciting and entertaining tussle this afternoon. On behalf of you all I welcome our "invaders" from the East and sincerely trust that they enjoy their brief visit here.

S. T. DAY. (President, Gloucestershire R.F.U.)

### CHAMPIONSHIP CHATTER

#### Tough Task

Effort being the highest common factor in every successful enterprise it was not, perhaps, surprising that Gloucestershire won the South West group with that great victory over their other neighbours, Somerset, here a fortnight ago in a match that brought early uncertainties. Success for the champions this afternoon would take them into the semi-final of the competition for the eighth consecutive season, a feat that no other county has ever come near to achieving in the long history of the championship. But "Ox", as their fervent supporters call them, will be determined to make Gloucestershire battle hard to reach the semi-final. Whoever wins today, however, will not exactly relish that next step, for it means the long journey north to meet either Lancashire or Yorkshire, who themselves clash this afternoon to decide their group championship. The semi-final, incidentally, is due to be played on Saturday, January 22nd.

### E & O E

This abbreviation, so well-known to business men and perhaps essential in guarding against errors in their invoices and the like, might have saved a few blushes had it been added to the notes for the Somerset game. For in the paragraph congratulating Dave Rollitt on his long service to Gloucestershire it was stated that it was his 54th appearance. It could have been a printer's, reader's or author's error; apportioning the blame seems almost irrelevant. The point is that it was in fact his 68th appearance for the County. Sincere apologies, "D.M." - and hearty congratulations!

### Handbook

A reminder that the Gloucestershire R.F.U. handbook is now available to supporters who can purchase their copies at the very reasonable price of 30p each from the County secretary, Mr. George Wright, or from Mr. Colin Russell (telephone Dursley 3334). It is again packed with interesting information and records, and there is a special article on the tour of Rhodesia and South Africa earlier this year, written by John Mason, rugby correspondent of the **Daily Telegraph**, who accompanied the Gloucestershire party on tour.

### KINGSHOLM KACKLE

#### Fog-bound

The three witches in Macbeth might almost have been referring to the "spectacular" at Kingsholm last Sunday week when they spoke of hovering through the fog and filthy air. For what was undoubtedly the finest game on the ground for a long time was completely ruined by the fog which, to add to the frustration, lifted completely by early evening. It was a tragedy that such brilliant rugby could only be seen by small sections of the large crowd in turn. But it is also a tribute to the devoted rugby enthusiasts of Gloucester and district that they braved such appalling conditions to support the lads in their efforts to raise funds for the tour of Colorado next summer. Organiser Alan Brinn, while upset like all of us over the knavish trick played by the weather, expresses the gratitude of the lads to all who supported the venture, especially to the disappointed crowd and the players who travelled from near and far in their efforts to make it a success.

### Cup Fever

That "tickling commodity" which the soccer fraternity term cup fever descends upon the rugby scene next Saturday, when most of the first round matches in the John Player Cup competition will be played. All three clubs in the County involved have been unfortunately drawn away, for Bristol travel to meet Esher, while Gloucester take on Harlequins at Twickenham and the gallant "locals", Gordon League, visit the seaside to do battle with Weston-super-Mare. Our best wishes go to all three; may they go forward to the second round!

ARTHUR RUSSELL