GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
Founded 1873
PRESIDENT: A. T. VOYCE, OBE

GLOUCESTER V
LYDNEY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27th, 1976
at
KINGSHOLM, GLOUCESTER

Kick-off: 3.00 p.m.

Official Programme – 6p
WELCOME TO THE "SEVERN-SIDERS"

With so much of that wretched weather lately which must have inspired the Bard to write those famous lines on winter about icicles hanging by the wall, rugger at Kingsholm seems to have become little more than a fond memory. Indeed, it is difficult to believe that Gloucester's last home match was seven weeks ago, against Aberavon on Tuesday, November 23.

However, activities are resumed this afternoon at the height of the festive season as we again extend a cordial welcome to our Boxing Day visitors our old friends, county neighbours, Lydney.

In the corresponding match last Boxing Day the "Severn-siders" provided a thoroughly entertaining game worthy of the occasion, Gloucester eventually running out winners by 44 points to 7.

This season Lydney have been hit by injuries, and like so many clubs, have also suffered from the weather. But with most of their stalwarts now back in action we look forward to a resumption in play and another entertaining game this afternoon.

KINGSHOLM KACKLE

Those Sour Grapes

Hearty, if belated, congratulations to the lads on that splendid win over Harlequins in the first round of the John Player Cup at the Stoop Memorial Ground, and of course to our gallant local heroes, Gordon League, in disposing of Weston-super-Mare so convincingly at Drove Road. It is, indeed, a great honour for our city to be supplying two clubs to the last sixteen in the country for the second round.

But while it is perhaps understandable that so many of the national reporters take umbrage when one of their London favourites is beaten, it is quite unforgivable that they should go to such lengths in condemning the Cherry and Whites in a manner that almost amounts to libel. From some reports anyone not at the game might imagine that Gloucester perpetrated a series of fouls from start to finish — yet it was a 'Quins player who was severely lectured for kicking one of the lads in full view of everyone.

Fortunately we have a wonderful ally and dedicated supporter in our own M.P., Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, who told those misguided London journalistic "experts" in no uncertain terms about the proverbial sour grapes. She perhaps had in mind the words of Iago to his master, Othello — "O, beware my lord, of jealousy; it is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on".

300 Club winners

This is the first opportunity we have had of publishing the winners of the 300 Club draws for both November and December, though their names have appeared on the notice board in the Social Club.
November’s winners were: £25 to C. Thorpe (No. 55), with £10 each to L. Street (50), A. Husband (206), T. Batsford (2), Miss J. Saunders (217) and H. Cook (187).

The December list of winners includes several very familiar names. They were £25 to R. G. Long (271) and £10 each to J. W. Holder (13), Mrs. G. Collins (24), F. Brammer (49), Mrs. Smith (30) and N. H. B. Dunclafe (287). Congratulations to them all and a reminder that next month’s draw will be held in the Social Club on Friday evening, January 28, at 9.00 p.m.

Diary Dates
Next Saturday, January 1, 1977, brings those popular biennial visitors, London Scottish, to Kingsholm for the traditional New Year fixture (kick-off 3.00 p.m.). But supporters will no doubt be pleased to know that next Monday, January 3, which is a Bank Holiday, of course, the Cherry and Whites travel to meet Bath at the Recreation Ground, also with a 3.00 p.m. kick-off. This is a re-arranged fixture for that which was originally due to have been played on December 11, but had to be postponed because of Bath’s John Player Cup commitments.

Trip to Vale of Lune
Gloucestershire meet Lancashire in the county championship semi-final at Vale of Lune — not Blundellsands, as originally thought — on Saturday, January 22, 1977. It is proposed to run a coach as usual and those wishing to support the County are asked to contact Jim Holder as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Seasonal Greetings
In conclusion Gloucester Rugby Football Club officials, committee and players join in wishing you all the compliments of the season and thank you sincerely for your continued support, which is so deeply appreciated.

Arthur Russell

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