



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

A. T. VOYCE, O.B.E.

GLOUCESTER

V

WASPS

Saturday, 21st January, 1978

at

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Nº 285

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME **10p**

- RUGBY BOOTS ● JERSEYS AND SHORTS ● BALLS ● CLUB DISCOUNTS
- INDIVIDUAL DISCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS

● Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

54 Barton Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

GLOUCESTER

Cherry and White

Full Back

*† 15. P. Butler

Three Quarters

* 14. R. Clewes

* 13. R. Jardine

* 12. B. Vine

*§ 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

*† 10. C. Williams

* 9. P. Howells

Forwards

1. M. Curran

* 2. S. Mills

* 3. G. Sargeant

*§ 4. S. Boyle

* 5. J. Fidler

*† 6. J. Watkins (Capt.)

8. J. Simonett

7. V. Woolley

Replacements

D. James

D. Pointon

WASPS

Black and Gold

Full Back

15. J. Drake

Three Quarters

14. A. Richards (Capt.)

13. M. Walbyoff

12. N. French

11. A. Rayner

Half Backs

10. I. Ball

9. M. Conner

Forwards

1. I. Isichei

2. J. Gallagher

3. L. Lewis

4. J. Bonner

5. A. Black

6. R. Smith

8. A. Scott

7. A. Cooper

Replacements

Referee: D. BELTON (Leicestershire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE

(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

1 BARTON STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Welcome to the Wasps!

Not a strange invitation to those revolting insects which plague us during the warmer months of our climate, but a sincere welcome to the famous London club, enjoying a somewhat successful season.

Although the first round of the John Player Cup competition is officially scheduled for next Saturday, by special arrangement Wasps played their match with Richmond last Sunday week and we congratulate them on making further progress. For although they drew with their London rivals they qualified for the second round by virtue of being the visiting team.

Unfortunately those black jerseys with the golden wasps upon them are only seen at Kingsholm once every two years, the annual matches between our two clubs being played on an alternate home and away basis.

Gloucester have had the better of recent meetings. Last season they had a convincing victory on the Wasps' ground at Repton Avenue, Sudbury, by 32 points to 6, while on Friday evening, January 16, 1976, the Cherry and Whites won at Kingsholm by 16 points to 6. Wasps, then, will be thirsting for revenge and we look forward to another entertaining game this afternoon, trusting our visitors enjoy their brief stay.

Kingsholm Kackle Up for T' Cup

As mentioned above next Saturday is Cup day and Gloucester's opponents, of course, are neighbouring Lydney, with the usual kick-off at 3 p.m. This is an "all pay" match, as laid down in the rules of the competition, and all supporters are respectfully requested to come along as early as they possibly can to avoid delays at transfer points and at the gates.

Well Done, Mike!

Heartiest congratulations to Mike Burton on his belated but thoroughly deserved call to the England team to meet France in Paris this afternoon. The only mystery to everyone—except the selectors, of course—is why he has not been first choice prop for his country in recent years. We all hope he plays a real "stormer"!

French Visitors?

Although the necessary arrangements have not yet been finalised it is expected that there will be an exceptionally interesting match at Kingsholm on *Sunday, March 19*, when Racing Club de Narbonne, the French Division 1 side, will meet Gloucester.

This will be an extremely tough assignment for the lads if form is any guide, for the visitors are one of the strongest clubs in France and have supplied innumerable players to the national team, including the legendary Spanghero brothers.

Narbonne players and supporters are travelling over for the Wales v. France international at Cardiff on Saturday, March 18 and will make the comparatively short journey to meet Gloucester next day. There are also arrangements in hand to play the return match on the Narbonne ground on Sunday, August 27—the Bank Holiday weekend.

Great Start

Congratulations to the Cherry and Whites on their magnificent start to the New Year. At last able to field at near full strength after frustrating months of County championship and "trial" matches, the lads have disposed of Moseley, London Scottish and Leicester, three of the country's leading clubs, in the space of a fortnight.

"Retirement"

Keith Richardson, a former club captain who has made nearly 300 appearances for Gloucester, has decided to retire at the age of 34, though like others before him, he is reluctant to leave the scent of embrocation and the happy times with his colleagues, and will assist the club whenever they need him. We hope to see Keith around the field for quite a while yet and thank him for his magnificent service in the past.

Programme Winners

Lack of space in the programme notes for recent matches has not permitted the announcement of winners of lucky programmes. They are Mr. K. Drury, 157 Finlay Road, Gloucester (No. 901, Lydney match); Mr. Heath, "Glenberrow", Hollybush, near Ledbury (No. 1017, Moseley

match); and Mr. W. Anthony, 56 Beechcroft Road, Gloucester (No. 61) for last Saturday's game with Leicester. Congratulations to all three winners, who each received £5!

Patrons' Evening

A reminder to all our Patrons that their annual "get-together" will be held in the Social Club on Wednesday, February 1, and that admission is by *ticket only*. These may be obtained from Terry Tandy, Cecil Pope or Mervyn Elway and those Patrons who have not yet applied are respectfully asked to do so as soon as possible.

ARTHUR RUSSELL.

Club Personalities No. 17 Ron Etheridge

There are, in all sports, the great performer who, for some reason or another, is—if we may loosely quote Sir Walter Scott—unhonoured and unsung; yet he may have contributed more to his particular game than those more fortunate ones who have "blazed the headlines."

Such an outstanding player and, indeed, great club servant, is RONALD ETHERIDGE who, like the poet mentioned above, is a Scotsman by birth if not by environment and loyalties. For Ron was born at Rothesay in the Isle of Bute, though moving to Gloucester with his parents at the tender age of 3, thus establishing himself, to all intents and purposes, as a Gloucestrian.

Yet it was his place of birth that earned him two Scottish trials, at Meadowbank and Murrayfield, in the first of which he played in his accustomed position of full-back with the now famous Andy Irvine on the wing.

This was in 1971, two years after joining Gloucester, for whom he made his senior debut—at full-back—against Coventry in December, 1969, and has since made nearly 200 appearances.

Ron, who was educated at the Central Technical School, now Saintbridge, is married with two young sons and is a police officer, having joined the force last summer. An extremely versatile player, he seems equally at home whether at full-back or wing, and is currently occupying the fly-half position for Gloucestershire Police.



But Ron can take solace from the fact that he has not been completely unhonoured, for he has made nine appearances in county championship matches for Gloucestershire, seven as full-back and two on the wing. Yet he has also had his disappointments, the most bitter being when he was dropped by Gloucestershire for what turned out to be a disastrous final against Surrey at Kingsholm seven years ago—and after he had played in the previous championship games!

Ron's reputation as an attacking full-back is well known to all supporters, but they may not be aware that from this position he scored no fewer than four tries for Gloucester United against Cinderford at Kingsholm a year or so ago and also scored three for the senior team last summer, against South Illinois Select XV, when on the American tour.

But whether at full-back or on the wing we look forward to seeing the "twinkle toes" and sudden dashes of the auburn-haired Ron confusing the opposition for many more years!