



HARLEQUIN FOOTBALL CLUB

SEMI-FINAL JOHN PLAYER CUP

HARLEQUINS

v

GLOUCESTER

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION GROUND - TWICKENHAM

Saturday, 1st April 1978

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME **15p**

For the second year running we welcome Gloucester as Cup opponents. Last season, in the first round, they beat us by 19-13, only to go out themselves in the third round to Gosforth. Gloucester's reputation as Cup specialists is soundly based on their historic win in the first ever final in 1972, although, in point of fact, that is their only appearance in the final to date.

A semi-final tie is a novel experience for the Harlequins, but so equally was our third round game with Liverpool. All who saw that win must have been impressed by the control and discipline shown by our side. The right tactics had clearly been thoughtfully selected and were executed with great determination and efficiency.

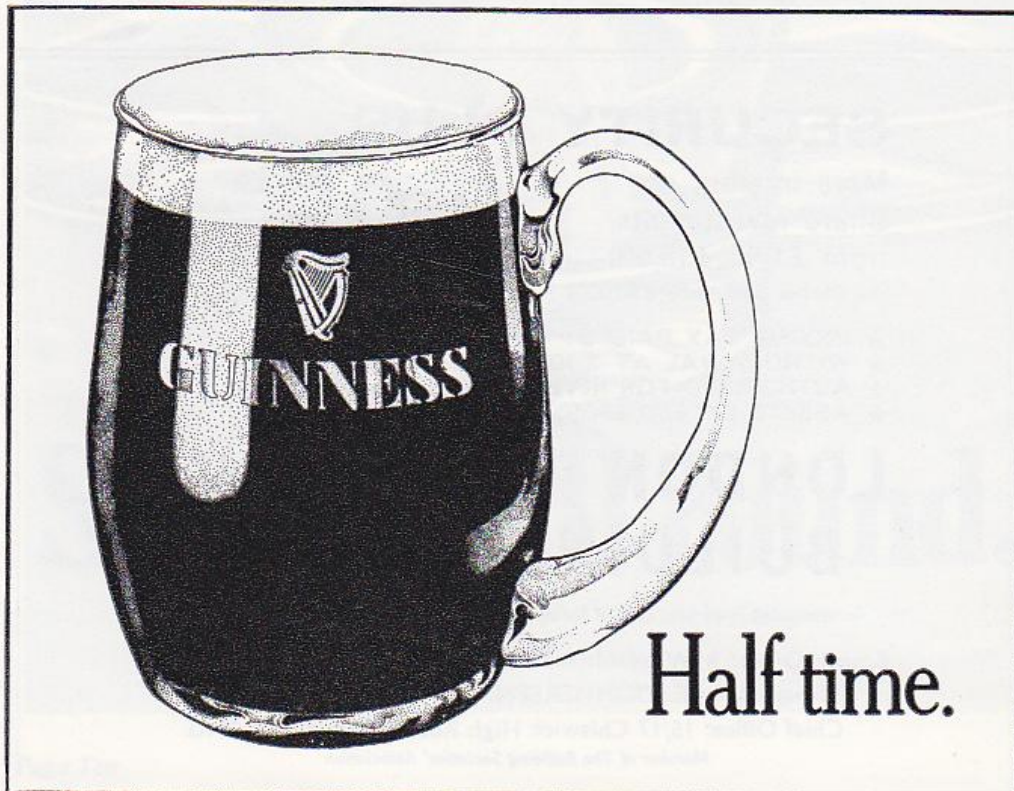
One of the less happy aspects of the John Player Cup is that 12 players are sitting on the bench at each game. If, as is the case with the Quins, your side remains virtually injury-free during the Cup games, and if, as in this season, games are lost through inclement weather, half a dozen players inevitably lose their match fitness. For what purpose one wonders, other than copying the International pattern? Surely, at most, 3 replacements would suffice?

In view of this situation, the Harlequins side against Coventry showed 8 changes from the previous week's Cup side. Too many, as it turned out, for Coventry, at full strength, were 13-0 up before we started to operate as a team. However, congratulations are certainly due to Steve Simson, who scored all 3 tries on his season's debut for the 1st XV.

At the time of writing, Easter Tour is still ahead and today's side has yet to be selected, but we can at least deny, in advance, the Press reports that Bosco, Fuji and Jika have been approached.

We warmly congratulate our first-ever Colts side on their excellent season's record of 15 wins from 20 games and especially the four of them who played for England's under 21 team; - Nick Youngs (Captain), Guy Merison, Chris Butcher and Anthony Brooks. May they all go from strength to strength.

Whatever happens today, this is our last official home fixture of the season so it is fitting to thank all those who have supported us throughout. Our record of but 4 first-class wins before December might well have caused a faith or two to waver, but the subsequent tally of 12 wins from 15 games has certainly rewarded the loyal. We hope to see you all again next September.



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HARLEQUINS

*Colours: Light Blue, Magenta, Chocolate,
 French Grey, Black and Light Green*

GLOUCESTER

Colours: Cherry and White

15	K. M. Bushell	<i>Full Back</i>		P. Butler*	15
14	C. W. Lambert	<i>R. Wing</i>		R. Clewes	14
13	D. A. Cooke* (<i>Capt.</i>)	<i>R. Centre</i>		R. Jardine	13
12	G. Birkett*	<i>L. Centre</i>		B. Vine	12
11	G. E. Wood	<i>L. Wing</i>		R. Mogg	11
10	J. H. Macaulay	<i>Fly Half</i>		C. Williams*	10
9	P. R. Rawle	<i>Scrum Half</i>		P. Howels	9
1	T. C. Claxton	<i>Forward</i>		G. Sargeant	1
2	P. A. Hollis	<i>Forward</i>		S. Mills	2
3	M. F. Claxton	<i>Forward</i>		M. Burton*	3
4	P. Whiting*	<i>Forward</i>		J. Fidler	4
5	P. D. Jackson	<i>Forward</i>		S. Boyle	5
6	S. R. R. Edlmann	<i>Forward</i>		J. Watkins* (<i>Capt.</i>)	6
8	A. C. Alexander	<i>Forward</i>		J. Simmonett	8
7	D. H. Cooke	<i>Forward</i>		V. Wooley	7

Reserves:

D. M. Barry A. J. Cutter
 K. J. Douglas J. T. Dyson
 G. Gilbert C. R. Kelly

Reserves:

R. Etheridge M Curran
 D. Pointon F. Reed
 P. Kingston* E. Pinkney

Referee: Mr. P. E. Hughes (*Manchester/Lancs. Society*) *International

Quins Touch Judge:

G. Crawford
 (*London Society*)

Gloucester Touch Judge:

Major P. L. Lillington
 (*London Society*)