



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

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

GLOUCESTER

v

EBBW VALE

Saturday, 8th April, 1978

at

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Nº 0554

Kick-off 3 p.m.

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. B. Vine

* 12. R. Jardine

*§ 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

*† 10. C. Williams

* 9. P. Howell

Forwards

1. C. Poole

* 2. S. Mills

*† 3. M. Burton

*§ 4. S. Boyle

* 5. J. Fidler

*† 6. J. Watkins

8. J. Simonett

7. V. Wooley

Replacement

S. Baker

F. Reed

EBBW VALE

Red, White, Green
Full Back

* 15. P. Griffiths

Three Quarters

14. N. Matthews

*† 13. A. Lewis

* 12. S. Lawrence

* 11. R. Cale

Half Backs

10. A. Rainbow

* 9. S. Lewis

Forwards

1. J. Short

2. R. Holmes

* 3. G. Howells (Capt.)

4. E. Jones

* 5. M. Vanderlaas

* 6. P. Gardner

* 8. D. Fryer

*† 7. C. Burgess

Replacement

Referee: L. PRIDEAUX (N. Midlands Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

1 BARTON STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Welcome to the Vale

As yet another highly successful season draws to its close for the Cherry and Whites we extend a particularly warm welcome to our Gwent friends, Ebbw Vale, whom Gloucester meet only once each season, on a home and away basis.

In recent years ground advantage has proved the deciding factor in matches between our two clubs, the Vale having the better of matters at their Welfare Ground and Gloucester returning the compliment at Kingsholm.

Ebbw Vale's last visit here, on Saturday, April 10, 1976, ended in a narrow victory for Gloucester, however, by 15 points to 12 in an absorbing game. We look forward to another exciting tussle this afternoon for what will be Gloucester's penultimate home match of the season.

Kingsholm Kackle THE CUP FINAL

It seems almost superfluous to congratulate the lads on their great victory over Harlequins in the John Player Cup semi-final at Twickenham last Saturday, for most of our loyal and fervent host of supporters have already done that personally. Nevertheless, for the record, may we add our own congratulations in these programme notes, perhaps for all Gloucesterians—for the Cup Final next week-end, also at Twickenham, is undoubtedly the burning topic in the sporting world of the city and beyond.

Nor is it intended to enlarge here on the Cup Final, for so much space has been allotted in recent programmes to the arrangements that were made for both the Wasps' game and the semi-final. All supporters have long become accustomed to the procedure for booking on trains and coaches, and these still apply.

British Rail have specifically requested, however, that those intending to take advantage of their special trip book as early as possible, for

there is a possibility that they may even have to run a third train to Twickenham. But before this is done they obviously have to know whether or not there will be sufficient "customers".

The usual fleet of coaches—Close's "chariots and cohorts"—will be running at a cost of £2 per seat. Again it is essential to book, today if possible if you have not already done so, for so many extra trips are being arranged for the final by clubs and companies in and around the city that there is a very definite possibility that no coaches will be available for hire in Gloucester and Cheltenham for that day.

Cup Final Tickets

Tickets for the final are on sale at the ground this afternoon, though they can also be obtained from club secretary Terry Tandy at his home, 17 Ogbourne Close, Longlevens; Hudson & Co., sports outfitters, of Northgate Street; or Alan Brinn Sports, Barton Street.

The cost is reasonable, for Stand tickets are £2, unreserved £1, and ground or enclosure 50p, with children having to pay only 25p. It is stressed that for the first time in the history of the cup competition, the Gloucester club will be selling tickets on a commission basis. All our supporters are asked, therefore, to purchase their tickets from the club or any of those mentioned above, as it proves beneficial to Gloucester R.F.C.

Behaviour

On behalf of the club, secretary Terry Tandy has appealed to all genuine supporters to keep the proverbial eye open for the few hooligans who are giving Gloucester a bad name. He emphasises that it is only a dozen or so out of several thousands, but unfortunately, as in so many walks of life, it is the small ridiculous minority on which attention is usually focussed.

In the semi-final last Saturday, a few ill-mannered youths threw mud at one of the touch-judges, while one "supporter" poured beer over a Harlequins' follower solely because he

cheered his side on. The miscreant may have thought it highly amusing and clever; frankly, it was a sad reflection on his manners and mentality, and one can only charitably assume that he was a little too inebriated to realise how abominable was his behaviour. One wonders what his own reactions would have been had someone poured beer over him when cheering for Gloucester!

As millions of viewers saw on television dozens of young supporters ran on the Twickenham pitch when Bob Clewes scored. The club ask that there should be no recurrence of this, at least during the game, though the youngsters enthusiasm is readily understood. But, as Terry Tandy pointed out, we do not want our game sinking to the level of soccer and its hooligans.

Another sad feature of last Saturdays semi-final was the unsporting behaviour of a certain section of "supporters" who boo-ed whenever, Bushell, the Harlequins' full-back, took a kick at goal. Again, we point out that there is nothing clever nor even parochial about such behaviour, and that the boos were heard country-wide by the television viewers, who must have gained a very poor image of Gloucester's sportsmanship.

Unfortunately this has tended to increase in recent seasons, especially at cup matches and some internationals; and indeed has happened far too often here at Kingsholm. May we appeal to our dedicated supporters to set a new trend in sportsmanship and remain quiet when an opponent takes a goal kick!

300 Club

All members of the "300 Club" are reminded that the final draw will be made in the Social Club on Friday evening, April 28, at 9 p.m., when there are several big money prizes to be won, including the first prize of £350. But it must be emphasised that any member who has not fully paid

his subscriptions before the final draw will not be eligible for any of the prizes.

Last Match

Following their Cup Final next week-end Gloucester, after a break of several years, will again be embarking on a tour of Cornwall and Devon, with Camborne, on Saturday, April 22, St. Ives and Plymouth Albion as their opponents. The match against Plymouth is particularly important as it is one of the South-West Merit Table official fixtures. So, too, is that against Exeter, who visit Kingsholm on Saturday, April 29 for the Cherry and Whites' final match of the season.

Club Personalities

When the season began it was estimated that the number of Gloucester's home matches would be sufficient to permit of one player being included in the popular feature, "Club Personality" each programme. Alas, with so many matches cancelled because of the atrocious weather in February and the John Player Cup, plus Gloucester's magnificent run in the competition which demanded so many detailed notes and space in our programmes, the supply of "succulent silhouettes" and the relevant eulogies far exceeds the number of fixtures at Kingsholm.

However, for our final home match, against Exeter, with the Cup final passed into history and perhaps little in the way of "Kingsholm Kackle" except the usual valedictory remarks, we hope there will be space to include two or three of our leading players whom we have yet to spotlight. It may not be possible to attach glamorous pictures of these stars, but our supporters know them so well that neither they nor the players will take umbrage if they are omitted, particularly if it means that we can "squeeze" in one or two extra "Club Personalities".

ARTHUR RUSSELL.