



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

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

GLOUCESTER

v

EXETER

Saturday, 29th April, 1978

at

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Nº 0311

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. K. Conway

11. P. Conway

Half Backs

*† 10. C. Williams

* 9. P. Howell

Forwards

*† 1. M. Burton

* 2. F. Reed

3. M. Curran

* 4. P. Winnel

*† 5. A. Brinn

*† 6. J. Watkins

8. J. Simonett

7. V. Wooley

Replacement

S. Baker

G. Herniman

EXETER

Black

Full Back

* 15. R. Stadden

Three Quarters

14. S. Williams

* 13. R. Packer

* 12. T. Arbourne

11. S. Pawson

Half Backs

* 10. S. Webb

* 9. G. Milford

Forwards

* 1. C. Mills

2. J. Pyne

* 3. P. Baxter

* 4. P. Woodrow (Capt.)

* 5. C. Davies

* 6. J. Hartley

* 8. F. Webber

7. S. Collier

Replacement

P. Chambers

Referee: V. SCHWARZ (Liverpool)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE

(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

1 BARTON STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Cordial Greetings— and Sad Farewell!

The extremely warm welcome we extend to Exeter this afternoon must of necessity be tinged with sadness for all our fervent rugger supporters, for it heralds the end of yet another remarkable season for the Cherry and Whites.

Last year Gloucester travelled to the County Ground on Saturday, April 23, and after a keen struggle defeated Exeter by 14 - 6, but the previous season our Devon friends visited Kingsholm twice and the results make interesting reading.

For on their first visit, on Saturday, November 8, 1975, Gloucestershire were playing Devon at Bristol; and despite the fact that as usual the Cherry and Whites supplied the majority of the County side and were sadly weakened, they romped to victory by the remarkable margin of 76 - 6. When Exeter came again the following February and Gloucester were virtually at full strength, no doubt some supporters confidently forecast a cricket score. But the Devon men were not to be fooled again and after an entertaining game the margin was more than halved as Gloucester won by 32 - 10.

This season has indeed been a highly successful one for Exeter, who arrive this afternoon with 38 victories from 45 matches, having scored 988 points while conceding 422. They are in second place to Gloucester in the South-West merit table and only last week beat Bristol convincingly enough at the County Ground. We look forward to yet another absorbing game with them today to conclude a memorable season!

Kingsholm Kackle Worthy Champions

After that unforgettable day at Twickenham a fortnight ago, with the greatest crowd ever to watch a John Player Cup, or English club match, what else can be added to the many congratulations and eulogies bestowed upon the lads? Truly they can be called the "team of the season" and all that may be said in these notes on behalf of their thousands of supporters—indeed, the city of Gloucester—is "Well done, every one of you!"

No doubt our supporters will make their feelings known this afternoon in their own vociferously inimitable way as Gloucester appear at Kingsholm for the first time since winning the coveted John Player Cup. But again, there is a tinge of sadness, for it will be the last game for the club of genial Mike Burton, perhaps the most controversial figure in rugger today. He will be a difficult player to replace, for, as Cassius said, "He doth bestride the narrow world like a Colossus." Thank you, Mike, and may you not be lost to our world of rugby!

1,000 Points?

For several seasons Gloucester have topped 1,000 points, on most occasions being the first top-class club to do so. Cancelled matches, especially during the Arctic spell in February, have made the task more difficult this season and they still require 19 points to reach the magic figures. But it will be seen from their impressive record that Exeter need only 12 points for their 1,000.

Congratulations

Heartiest congratulations to six of our great cup-winning side — Richard Jardine, Richard Mogg, Gordon Sargent, Steve Mills, John Fidler and Steve Boyle — on selection for the England "B" side which leaves for Rumania this week-end and, of course, will be out of the team for this afternoon's game. Good luck to all six of them!

Good Luck, Matson!

Best wishes, also, to our formidable local club, Matson, who meet Camborne, the Cornish champions, at Red Well Road this afternoon in the preliminary round of the John Player Cup. May they join Gloucester in next season's national competition!

Generous Gesture

The club wishes to extend grateful thanks and appreciation to Mr. F. J. Colley, a regular supporter, of 8 The Laurels, Tredworth, for his very generous gesture in purchasing the ball to be used in this afternoon's match. A senior citizen, Mr. Colley was so delighted with Gloucester's great cup win that he wished to express his feelings in this way. Thank you, Sir!

300 Club

Last night the final draw for the highly popular — and remunerative — “300 Club” was made in the Social Club. It was too late to be able to announce the winners in these notes, but their names may be seen on the notice board at the Social Club bar.

Valediction

As Rosalind remarked in “As You Like It,” a good play needs no epilogue, so how better to end another wonderful season by merely quoting the poet Milton — “Farewell happy fields, where joy for ever dwells,” — at least until next September.

Club officials, committee men and players join in tendering their very sincere thanks to all of you who have given such tremendous and invaluable support throughout the season. The players in particular will not readily forget the essential part you played towards the winning of the John Player Cup.

We in turn thank the players of both the senior and United teams who have devoted so much of their time, energy and unbounded skills in providing such exciting and excellent fare yet again!

ARTHUR RUSSELL.

Club Personalities

With a spate of away matches recently and the magnificent achievements in the John Player Cup which have demanded so much space in our programmes, the popular feature of Club Personalities too often had to be put in that imaginary basket which civil servants term “In Abeyance.”

We apologise to those, among them several prominent members of the great Cup side, who have not yet been spotlighted, and it is hoped to continue the feature next season.

Were an award to be made each year for the most improved player few would disagree that it would be deservedly won this season by that hirsute and industrious No. 8, JOHN FREDERICK SIMONETT, who has made the position so much his property, as it were, that the Scottish selectors have earmarked him for consideration for their next season’s internationals.



Yet John, although educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, before completion of his training at St. Paul’s College, was born in *Trinidad*. He skippered the Scotland Schools (Under 19) nine years ago, when included in the same team were Andy Irvine and Lewis Dick.

A physical education teacher at Beaufort, he is married, though has not yet become a progenitor. His proficiency as an amateur prestidigitator—(magician to you, mate!)—never ceases to astonish his colleagues and he appears to extend some of that legerdemain to his ploys at the back of the line-out.

John played for St. Paul’s College for four years, during which time he was appointed captain; he also skippered the British Colleges in 1975, yet oddly enough, has made only one non-championship appearance for Gloucestershire. He joined Gloucester at the beginning of last season and has played over 50 times for the senior side, including the tour of America last summer.

John is currently playing basketball for a Stroud side, Ebley Tyres, and his versatility and height have contributed richly to their success—for they are top of Division 1 in the West of England League.