GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
FOUNDED 1873
PRESIDENT
A. T. VOYCE, O.B.E.

GLOUCESTER
v
CHELTENHAM

Wednesday, 13th September, 1978
at
Kingsholm, Gloucester
Kick-off 7 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 10p
Cordial Welcome to The Town

As our worthy announcer would say, "Here we are again, ladies and gentlemen!" For there is, after all, something special about the match this evening, when we extend a very warm welcome to our old friends and neighbours, Cheltenham.

Apart from being the first mid-week game of the new season at Kingsholm, it is also the first under the new floodlights which will give at least 35 per cent increase in illumination and will be the envy of all visiting clubs. They have been installed at a cost of £8,000, half of which has been met by the Social Club, to whom very grateful thanks.

It could be no more fitting to mark the occasion than to have the Town as our visitors. After that depressing spell in the doldrums two or three years ago they are again suggesting they will soon be a force to be reckoned with in top-class circles and began the new campaign in encouraging style with a convincing victory over Guy's Hospital.

Perhaps during that period of disappointments Cheltenham were mindful of Tennyson's words, "Cleave ever to the summer side of doubt," and we wish them good fortune in the future.

In the corresponding game last season at Kingsholm, on Wednesday, September 21, Gloucester romped to a resounding victory by 54 points to 4, but Cheltenham's revival was already evident in the return match at the Athletic Ground on Wednesday, March 15, of this year, when the Cherry and Whites were given a much harder struggle before they duly completed the double by 21 points to 4.

We look forward then to the usually enjoyable tussle with our neighbours this evening—and of course the social intercourse after the game!

death last week of Ben Edwards, so long a stalwart of the Cheltenham club and a former Welsh international.

A genial and much-loved personality, "Big" Ben was the immediate past chairman of the Town club, relinquishing the post at their annual meeting because of ill health. He was awarded the M.B.E. last June for services to the Outward Bound Association, of which he was the local chairman, but his illness prevented his being invested.

Ben had a smile and a cheery word for everyone and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathies go out to his widow and family—and to the Cheltenham club in their great loss of a tireless worker and a gentleman!

Fine Achievement

Congratulations to the lads on a magnificent club double last Saturday! Few teams travel to Coundon Road and return with victory over powerful Coventry under their proverbial belts, and skipper Jerry Harriman's United lads made it cause for a dual celebration with an equally creditable win over the Midlanders' strong Extra 1st XV.

Triple Debuts

It will not have gone unnoticed by our supporters that three players are making their senior debuts this evening. We extend warm welcomes to Lewis Dick, the famous Scottish International, who needs no introduction, fly-half Ian Wilkins, who played for Gloucestershire in the County championship final last December 31, and young flanker John Gadd, a highly promising prospect from Gloucester Colts. A mention, too, for another young newcomer, Mike Teague, named as a replacement.
United Programmes

Those supporters who were at Kingsholm last Saturday have expressed their appreciation of the issue of programmes for the United match. No charge is made and all we ask is that satisfied "customers" make a small donation in the collecting boxes to help cover the cost of issuing them, for it is hoped to continue this service for all United's home games, especially as so many come to watch their highly successful exploits.

Lucky Programme

One of our country supporters won the first £5 of the new season for lucky programme numbers for the Broughton Park match last Saturday week. He is Mr. R. Cierney, of Elmore, and the number was 253. Well done, sir!

Forthcoming Matches

There are several important matches at Kingsholm in the next few weeks, as supporters are well aware. In a fortnight's time, Wednesday, September 27, is the special game to celebrate Gloucestershire's centenary, kick-off 7 p.m., when the County take on the might of the President's XV, which will include a host of British Lions and internationals and has been selected by our old friend, Mike Burton.

It will be sponsored by Gulliver's Travels and the star-studded President's team will be led by the almost legendary Willie John McBride, who is looking forward eagerly to making his first appearance at our famous ground. Stand tickets are £2 and will be on sale at the office on the ground this evening. Admission to ground is 75p, while the cost to senior citizens and juniors will be only 50p.

Saturday, October 7 (kick-off 3 p.m.), brings the Bucharest side, the top club in Rumania, to Kingsholm to meet Gloucester and stand tickets will shortly be available. The cost is £1 for the centre stand and 80p for the wings and Patrons are respectfully requested to apply for them early, as they cannot be held after September 30.

Three days later, on Tuesday evening, October 10, the Argentinians' touring side visit Kingsholm for their match against English Universities. For this match, which is officially under the jurisdiction of the Rugby Union, all stand tickets will be £1.50p and they will also be available shortly.

International Tickets

We make no apologies for reminding members that applications for international tickets must be made much earlier than usual as the first match is against the All Blacks at Twickenham on Saturday, November 25.

In view of this all applications must be received by the club secretary, Terry Tandy, of 17 Osbourne Close, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0HU (Telephone 23049), by this coming Friday, September 15, at the very latest.

Club Personalities

It is hoped to resume this feature, which proved so popular last season, for the Bristol match next Saturday week, September 23. This year it will include officials as well as players.

Diary Dates

Gloucester make the long journey north to meet Waterloo next Saturday, but the United are at Kingsholm for the match against Devon visitors. Brixham, kick-off 3 p.m.

Several mid-week fixtures are expected to be added to the United list in the next few weeks, two having already been arranged. These are against North Gloucestershire Combination on Monday evening, October 2nd, and Manly, an Australian club, on Wednesday, October 11, both at Kingsholm with the usual 7 p.m. kick-off.

ARTHUR RUSSELL.