



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

**GLOUCESTER
v
PONTYPRIDD**

Saturday, 6th October 1979

at

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3 p.m.

70

603

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 10p

- RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS
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GLOUCESTER

Cherry and White

Full Back

*† 15. P. Butler

Three Quarters

* 14. R. Clewes (Capt.)

* 13. D. Pointon

* 12. R. Jardine

*§ 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

10. B. Russell

9. S. Baker

Forwards

* 1. G. Sargent

* 2. S. Mills

3. A. Brooks

*§ 4. S. Boyle

* 5. A. Turton

*† 6. J. Watkins

8. M. Teague

7. P. Wood

REPLACEMENTS

P. Williams

F. Reed

PONTYPRIDD

Full Back

15. A. Williams

Three Quarters

14. K. Swain

13. C. Riley

12.

11. T. Harrison

Half Backs

10. J. Hazzard

9. R. Morgan

Forwards

1. K. Salmon

2. D. Young

3. J. Newland

4. R. Penberthy

5. J. Luff

6. W. Peckham

8. R. Cooksley

† 7. T. David (Capt.)

REPLACEMENTS

R. Dyer

D. Rees

Referee: R. MAYO (Bristol Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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1 BARTON STREET, GLOUCESTER

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Very Warm Welcome to Pontypridd!

Polonius in his wisdom exhorted his son to grapple to his soul those friends he had with hoops of steel; he might well have added that making new friends is equally important and essentially a part of everyday life. This applies in our great game of 'rugger, which is why we extend a particularly warm welcome this afternoon to Welsh champions Pontypridd.

Unless some keen statistician can unearth any ancient rugby facts, unknown to us, from the reign of Queen Victoria, which may or may not have amused that worthy monarch, this, we believe, is the first-ever visit of Pontypridd to Kingsholm. A few details concerning our new friends, then will not come amiss.

A burning question in the Principality this season is — can Pontypridd become the first team for over 40 years to win the Welsh club championship for three successive years? And as this match today counts in that competition, as do all those between the leading Welsh clubs and Gloucester, there will be an added incentive for Pontypridd, skippered by popular Tom David, to return home and, like the emperor of old, proclaim that they came, saw and conquered.

It is a little early in the season to begin assessing form with any degree of accuracy, but supporters may note with interest and no few misgivings that Pontypridd ended last season with the remarkable record of losing only seven of their 45 matches, scoring 900 points against 401.

Their two bitter disappointments in such a marvellous season were the defeat by Bridgend in the Welsh cup final—one they expected to win after accounting for J.P.R. and his men in the "league"—and that by the New Zealand touring side, Taranaki, skippered by the All Black star, Graham Mourie, and still fondly remembered by Kingsholm supporters.

Taranaki were the only team to win at Sardis Road, the Pontypridd ground, incidentally, and even Mourie admitted afterwards that they were extremely lucky to snatch their 16 - 14 victory where all the Welsh "big guns" had failed.

That briefly gives an idea of the powerful opposition and tough task facing the Cherry and Whites this afternoon and we look forward to a memorable tussle on this first meeting of two great clubs, the while trusting that "Ponty" will thoroughly enjoy their visit to our fair city.

Kingsholm Kackle

County Match Tickets

The county championship campaign in the South-West group opens next Saturday, October 13, when Gloucestershire travel to Bath to meet neighbouring Somerset. Stand tickets are now available at the office on the ground and may be obtained before or after this afternoon's match.

It must be emphasised that no ground tickets will be issued and spectators may pay at the gate, for there will be ample room, as most of us who know the Recreation Ground at Bath can readily appreciate.

The Gloucestershire team for this opening game, incidentally, will not be selected until after the "friendly" county match against Monmouthshire at Clifton, kick-off 7.30 p.m., on Monday evening. Of further interest, perhaps, is the fact that should Gloucestershire win the group — for the 11th successive time — they will be away in all the final rounds, provided they make further progress. This means, of course, *no* county championship matches at Kingsholm this season!

John Fidler

No doubt all our supporters will be disappointed — and profoundly shocked — by the news that "big" John Fidler has been suspended for two months by the County disciplinary committee after being ordered off in the away game with Fylde last month. In other words the committee have decided to add another four weeks to the auto-

matic ban of a month which is now the ruling of the Rugby Union.

It has already been widely publicised in the Press that John is to appeal to the Rugby Union against the additional four weeks' ban and although it is not intended to enter into any discussion on the matter in these notes, he has the sympathy of the majority of supporters, who wish him well with his appeal.

If it is not successful it will mean that John will be unable to play for Gloucester again until the latter part of November and will certainly miss all the group county championship matches.

Indomitable United

Like the great sailor of old, Gloucester United might well claim to be monarchs of all they survey, for their remarkable performances to date leave them unbeaten after nine matches, with 248 points to their credit and only 61 scored against them. Moreover, they have not lost at Kingsholm for nearly two years, one of the reasons why they command such splendid support, for which they are deeply grateful.

This afternoon they travel to meet Cleve, the strongest of Bristol's "junior" clubs, but return to Kingsholm next Saturday for the tough assignment against Richmond Vikings. Then two days later on Monday, October 15, they are home again, when Luctonians are the visitors with a 7.00 p.m. kick-off.

Programme Prize — 'E.J.F.'

"Ah-ha!" as Willie Rushton might say, "Ah-ha!" — and leave the rest of the sentence as unfinished as Beethoven's famous symphony. For the lucky programme number for the Clifton match was

681 and the purchasers thereof was Mr. E. J. F. Stephens, of 1 Court Gardens, Hempsted, Gloucester — Eric, no less, of the pre-Butler era of prolific goal-kickers, now a County selector, though it's probably no fault of his.

However, Eric became, if only temporarily, richer by £5, though it is not known if he was able to evade some of his county selectorial colleagues after the match. Still, it is nice to know that he purchased a programme.

Astonishing Win

The opening lines of Keat's famous poem, "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness," have become something of a popular saying at Kingsholm at this time of the year; but the words came true in every sense of their meaning last Wednesday evening.

For not only were the mists and drizzle very apparent; the fruitfulness was also there in the form of a scoring spree, much to hapless Clifton's discomfort, as the lads amassed an astonishing 62 points without reply. It was the sort of display that gladdened supporters' hearts and they will eagerly await more of this exhilarating brand of approach. Well done, lads!

Diary Dates

The Senior side are away for the next two fixtures, against Abertillery on Wednesday and Harlequins at Twickenham next Saturday, which is, of course, a county match date.

But they return to Kingsholm for the remainder of this month, a series of four home matches commencing with the visit of another Welsh club, Newbridge, on Wednesday, October 17, with the usual evening kick-off at 7.00 p.m.

ARTHUR RUSSELL