

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V HARLEQUINS

Saturday, 11th October, 1980 Kingsholm, Gloucester

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

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Referee: D. J. WILSON (Yorkshire Society)

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* County



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THE 'QUINS ARE BACK!

Go to any major Rugby playing nation in the world, and ask the locals for the names of leading English Clubs, and the chances are that our visitors today will be named in the first two or three.

Harlequins certainly have one of the oldest and most honoured names in British Rugby, so our once-a-year encounters are obviously highly valued.

It seems a pity, therefore, that, of recent years, County calls have weakened the side we can turn out against them. The lot of a Fixture Secretary is not always a happy one...

Nevertheless, we don't do so badly. Last year for example, at Twickenham, Gloucester won 15-6, in a match which featured no less than four players who have graduated to Kingsholm from the Gloucester Old Boys RFC — a striking example of the strength of local Rugby in this part of the world.

On that occasion, Lewis Dick scored a try, which was converted by Paul Ford, who also kicked two penalties. The scoreline was completed by a Brian Russel drop goal.

As always, It's nice to see you, 'Quins. Hope you have an enjoyable visit.

Hitting the away trail

Next Wednesday, we complete a string of four home matches with a visit from the formidable Moseley side. Kick off 7.0 p.m. Not many supporters will want to miss that one.

After that, we have three consecutive away games, starting with an assault on the reviving Newport side on Saturday next — not too far away to give the boys your support. On the following Wednesday, we have a stern test at Pontypool, and on Saturday the 25th, there is a visit to Nottingham, who put it across Coventry the other week.

However, for stay-at-homes, the United entertain Luctonians on Monday next, and receive Newport United on Saturday. This is followed on Monday the 20th, by a visit from Berry Hill—a match for any connoisseur of local Derbies.

Whoops!

Sorry, but the fixture list, as printed on Season Tickets and in the programme, contains an error. The game against London Irish will be an 'Away' fixture, rather than at home. You'll remember that they visited Kingsholm last season, and were, in fact, one of the few visiting sides to win here, on that occasion. Naturally, that means that we should have the pleasure of their company at home next season.

There might be a very adequate compensation, however. That day, November 22nd, is the date for the County Semi-Finals, and if Gloucestershire progress that far, perhaps the County might consider that a vacant Kingsholm is too good a chance to miss.

Of course, it's their decision, but if they were to bring the Semi here, they can be assured of the usual fortissimo Kingsholm support.

Gloucestershire v. Somerset

As you know, the County play Somerset here on November 8th. As yet, we don't have full details, but the Zimbabwe game should not be taken as a precedent, in that, while tickets will be available for the Stand, you'll be able to pay at the gate to get into the Ground.

We don't know about prices yet, either — but again, Zimbabwe shouldn't be taken as a precedent.

Full information will be available within the next week or so, and we'll obviously let you know more by all the available methods, as soon as we can.

Doesn't anybody want the money?

It seems very peculiar while times is 'ard, but for the second time this season, we have to report that the lucky programme prize was unclaimed last week. Sure — a fiver isn't what it used to be, but it will still buy a round of drinks.

Is the loudspeaker system reasonably audible? Or have the winners been in the bar beforehand, and so had a visit to pay during half time, when the number is announced?

Contrary to certain uncharitable remarks, we can assure you that only the numbers which we know have been sold go into the draw, so we are certain that someone should have been paid.

That Bedford spree

Wasn't it marvellous to see five tries scored last week? Bedford weren't that bad a side, and if they made mistakes, then the Gloucester boys still had to make the opportunities.

Unfortunately, it wasn't all credit for Gloucester. In scoring his try Richard Mogg damaged his shoulder badly enough to be on the touch line for a couple of weeks, and incidentally, to miss the first Thorn County Championship match of the season.

There were fears, at first, of a broken collar bone, but we're now told that it's simply a bad bruise, so we all hope to see him gliding down the wing again before long.

Bad luck, Richard!

Congratulations

Hearty felicitations to the half-dozen Gloucester players who are today representing the County at Bristol. Peter Butler, John Fidler, Steve Mills, Gordon Sargent and Paul Wood all did quite enough to retain their places during the Zimbabwe game, and Peter Kingston grabbed the chance offered him as a last-minute replacement for Richard Harding with extremely telling effect.

It's also nice to see an ex-Gloucester stalwart getting his place too. Although Scottish International Lewis Dick is now playing for Cheltenham, it's nice to see him in the side again.

Tailpiece

Last week's programme got discussed in the bar, before and after the game, more than any other I remember. The reason was the Rugby puzzle which I set in the 'Tailpiece' section.

You'll remember that the question read: 'during a match, the outside half takes the ball, and then proceeds to score twelve points without anyone else touching the ball. How does he manage it?'

I received several answers, most of them involving esoteric offences resulting in a penalty from the half-way line. They could even be right. However, two people gave me the answer I had in mind. As follows.

The outside half runs through and scores a try, which he converts himself. At that point, the referee blows up for half time. The outside half kicks off, runs into space, takes the ball, scores another try, and again converts it. Result — 12 points. But half time has to intervene, or the other side would have kicked off, and so would have touched the ball.

I've got another one up my sleeve for a future occasion. Watch this space.

PETER ARNOLD