



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGES

Wednesday, 26th November, 1980

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

- 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 & White

Full Back

15. P. Ford

Three Quarters

* 14. R. Clewes

* 13. P. Howell

* 12. P. Taylor

*§ 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

10. C. Pryce

9. S. Baker

Forwards

* 1. G. Sargent

* 2. S. Mills (Capt.)

*† 3. P. Blakeway

*§ 4. S. Boyle

* 5. J. Orwin

6. J. Gadd

8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

P. Williams

K. White

LOUGHBOR'GH COLLEGES

Full Back

15. A. Barnard

Three Quarters

14. B. McLaughlin

13. S. Grabham (Capt.)

* 12. A. Thompson

11. P. Massey

Half Backs

10. M. Boyd

9. I. Wright

Forwards

1. D. Steel

2. S. Bain

* 3. C. Collins

4. G. Stokes

5. S. Hill

6. M. Hughes

8. D. O'Calaghan

7. D. Jelinek

REPLACEMENTS

D. Pegler

K. MacDonald

Referee: P. HANLEY

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Presenting — the one and only

We seem to be hearing a great deal about colleges these days. Electoral colleges, sixth form colleges, even tertiary colleges — but as any Rugby man knows, there's only one Loughborough Colleges.

The Rugby-playing reputation of tonight's visitors is probably unique, as far as places of education goes, though our friends from Exeter, who are here next week, would possibly disagree. For year after year they were undoubtedly the leading student Club, apart from the 'Oxbridge' sides, in the country, and have a most distinguished list of former students who have gone on to win International honours.

Not that Kingsholm has been a particularly happy hunting ground for them. Last year, for example, Gloucester won by 15 points to 8, and gained their 15th win of the season. On that occasion, Jerry Herniman, Adrian Turton and Ian Wilkins all scored tries, with Brian Russell weighing in with a penalty.

Loughborough never gave in, however. And one thing you can count on — they'll give us 100 per cent effort and value-for-money tonight. They always do.

Good to see you again lads.

And two to go

Tonight's game is the first of a trio of matches against University and College opposition. On Saturday we travel up the road to Oxford, and hope to give the University a stern test prior to the annual Twickenham debate with the 'other place' at Cambridge. Anyone thinking about a mild flutter on the result of that game might be well advised to go along and measure the abilities of Oxford against our experience with Cambridge a week or two ago.

Next Wednesday we are expecting a visit from Loughborough's deadliest rivals, Exeter University (Can't get used to that, somehow. It's still 'St. Luke's' as far as many of us are concerned). If you enjoy the game tonight, then you'll surely want a second helping next Wednesday.

Then, on Saturday December 6th, we're off to Pontypridd. Most regulars will remember that the Welsh Club's first visit here last year, which they won, was certainly one of the highlights of the season, with excellent Rugby, and a very great deal of good fellowship. And it's not so far away that you can't get along to sample their hospitality.

Meanwhile, the United continue along their merry way. On Saturday they play Ebbw Vale Athletic at Kingsholm, which should be worth a visit, while if you can't get to Pontypridd on Dec. 6th, you can have more than ample consolation by coming here to watch United take on Moseley United, which following certain serious events here in October, could be quite an encounter.

The Patrons' Trip to Pontypridd is on

Anyone who has been in the Lounge in the last week or so will have seen a remarkably artistic poster announcing that there will be a Patron's Coach going to the Pontypridd match on Saturday December 6th.

After the splendid support they brought here last year, it only seems right that we should take along our own vocal efforts on the return visit. At the time of writing, the precise time of the coach's departure from Kingsholm has not been established, although it may well be by the time you read this. Rest assured, however, that it will be early enough to allow a break to recover from the rigours of the journey, somewhere along the way.

Cost of the trip is a mere £2.50. Seats are going fast, so don't hang about if you fancy the excursion. Andy Mitchell will be glad to take your money in the Club afterwards.

We also hear rumours of an intended trip to the same match from the Social Club. Unfortunately, Terry Close has been prostrated by an attack of pneumonia, which prevented us getting full details in time for this programme. Perhaps you should enquire at the bar.

Don't believe all you hear

Great to see the County in their 10th Final in 12 seasons. Unfortunately some press and TV pundits have jumped the gun a little in confidently stating that the match would be played here on January 31st. In the words of George Gershwin, however, 'It ain't necessarily so!'

The point is that we are down to play the mighty Bridgend on that day, here at Kingsholm, and the Gloucester Committee — rightly in my view — has decided that there is no way in which they are going to muck the Welshmen about if the fixture cannot be easily rearranged. After all, they were booked first for Kingsholm, and no doubt, have their own domestic problems to sort out first.

If things can be arranged satisfactorily between the two clubs, then all well and good. If not, then — well, we're sorry.

Can't help thinking that if the original intention to play the Semi-Final here had been adhered to, then there wouldn't have been a problem.

Back to full strength?

Not on your life. Having got through the County programme, you might be entitled to expect that we can now see a full-strength Gloucester side on the odd Saturday or so. But don't count your chickens. Have a look at the calendar.

December 6th — England 'B' v. Ireland 'B'.

December 13th and 20th — Divisional matches.

January 3rd — Final England Trial.

January 10th — England Training Weekend.

January 17th — Wales v. England.

Apart from the Christmas period — when players have commitments to their families — it looks as if we shall not see a full Gloucester side on a Saturday until the first John Player on January 24th. And that's followed immediately by the County Final.

In these circumstances, it is virtually impossible for Gloucester — and other leading clubs for that matter — to build a settled side. Surely this is a situation which cannot be allowed to continue. It isn't fair on the Club. It isn't fair on players. It isn't fair on supporters.

The Gloucester Club is of the opinion that we can't continue for long to support both the Divisional matches and the County Championship. We wouldn't wish to get into the situation of — say — Leicester, who don't have any players worth mentioning playing County Rugby. And look what that has done to Leicestershire football, in spite of being the home of what has been the leading club in England for the last few years.

My own view (a purely personal one, not necessarily shared by anyone in an official position), is that we already have a perfectly good England Trial system, if it is used properly. It's called the County Championship. So why fiddle about with artificial nonsenses like the Divisional Matches?

However, as long as the Powers that Be insist on regarding them as the 'official' stepping stone to England recognition, who can blame players for wanting to play in them?

One thing's for sure. Something has to be done soon.

Tallpiece

Reverting to the Loughborough and Exeter University matches for a moment, we have now started a week where two senior City Council officials are likely to come out in their true colours.

Ian Stuart, Chief City Planning Officer, used to hook for Derbyshire, and is an old Loughborough man. Alistair McHaffie played on the wing for Plymouth and Devon, and attended St. Lukes. Alistair, as you may know, is Chief City Leisure Services Officer.

So, if you want something done by either the Leisure Centre or the Planning Department, perhaps you'd better hang about for ten days or so. You wouldn't want to get caught in the crossfire.

PETER ARNOLD.