



GLoucester RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLoucester v COVENTRY

Saturday, 20th December, 1980

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

720 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. P. Conway

* 13. P. Howell

12. P. Williams

* 11. R. Clewes

Half Backs

10. R. Lewis

9. S. Baker

Forwards

1. M. Preedy

2. K. White

3. S. Ashmead

* 4. J. Orwin

5. J. Brain

*† 6. J. Watkins

8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

B. Russell

D. Magill

COVENTRY

Full Back

† 15. P. Rossborough (Capt)

Three Quarters

14. L. Clifford

13. T. Buttimore

12. D. Foulks

11. R. Knee

Half Backs

† 10. H. Davies

9. P. Lander

Forwards

1. F. Melvin

2. A. Farrington

3. S. Wilkes

4. C. McCarthy

5. T. Gulliver

6. B. Clarke

8. K. Dodd

7. R. Sadler

REPLACEMENTS

D. Bailey

M. Hobley

Referee: F. HOWARD (Liverpool Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE

(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."

This appears to be a highly appropriate sentiment for this time of the year, but perhaps the thought wasn't really intended to cover the Gentle Art of scoring points in Rugby matches. And we started off this Season by receiving more than we gave at Coventry — which is not an unknown experience for any of the major clubs in the country.

That encounter, on September 13th, resulted in Gloucester being on the wrong end of a 16-3 result at Coundon Road, and in fact, it was the most clear-cut result in the Glos./Cov. series for a while.

In the equivalent game last year, played at Kingsholm, honours were even at 13-13, with Steve Boyle and John Watkins contributing tries. Ian Wilkins converted one of them, and added a penalty.

The return fixture, just before Christmas, turned out to be a Brian Russell benefit. He scored all the points in Gloucester's 9-3 win, by scoring a try, converting it, and adding a penalty.

In fact, Brian had it in for Coventry last Season. No one who was there will ever forget the way his last-kick drop goal wobbled and slithered its way over the bar in the John Player match in February, for the final-ditch win by the odd point in 19. So perhaps both sides have something to prove today.

There's always been something special in the Gloucester — Coventry matches, going right back to the days of George Cole and Peter Jackson. If you need evidence of that, you will recall that Gloucester made the largest contribution from any single Club towards the Memorial Fund for the late, great Sam Doble.

One way and another, it's difficult to think of more welcome opponents for our last match before Christmas. It's certainly the best chance we have of celebrating the Season of Peace and Goodwill to all Prop Forwards.

The John Player trail again — Southend.

So we're going to Sahfend — more famous, possibly, for wrinkles than wingers. Still — no team that has fought its way to this stage of the competition can be taken lightly, as our friends from Stroud can vouch.

A very nice man from British Rail rang me the other day to tell me that BR will be running at least one special train on January 24th, at the cost of a mere £5, which sounds like a bargain. Times haven't been finalised yet, but the journey time will probably be about four hours, depending on how long it takes to get across London. (Funny — I thought only motorists had that problem!).

More details of this, and any other trips, as we receive them.

It seems a long, long time . . .

It's just occurred to me that this is the first Saturday programme I've written since November 1st, what with County matches, and one thing and another. Which just adds point to my remarks a week or two ago about crowded fixture lists.

That November 1st match was Leicester. An omen perhaps?

Christmas Fare

God rest you, merry Lydney men,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember you've a match with us,
Right here on Boxing Day,
So cut down on the Christmas pud,
For you've a game to play,

Oh! Tidings of Comfort and Joy!

(Sorry about that! But at least it's not Shakespeare!)

County Final Tickets

You'll know, by now, that all obstacles have been overcome, and that the County Final is to be staged at Kingsholm on January 31st. It's worth pointing out that this match is organised by the Gloucestershire RFU, and not by Gloucester. This means that tickets have to be spread over the whole County, and that, therefore, our allocation will be limited to say the least.

Stevie Mills's Men stepped out,
Down the road to Newport,
That's where they got sorted out,
Lessons quite a few taught,
So come along next Saturday,
Give the lads your cheers,
Help the team its debt to pay,
Then celebrate with bee-cers!

Best guesses at the moment say that tickets will be just about sufficient for all Grandstand Season Ticket holders to apply for one each. Terry Tandy is now open for applications, complete with cheque and SAE. Please write to him at 17, Ogbourne Close, Longlevens, Gloucester, to arrive by Wednesday, January 7th.

That's for Stand tickets at £3.50. If you're content to stand up, tickets will be available, at the Office as soon as we have them — listen for announcements over the loudspeaker system. Cost ? £1.50, 80p. for OAP's and Juniors.

Carry your bag Sir?

Fancy a regular seat on the Club Players' Coach at Away matches? We've got a good, reliable set of Baggage Handlers, but we could do with one or two more. Duties include dealing with the kit at both Home and Away games, and what is needed is a few happy souls who could commit themselves to doing the job regularly on a rota basis.

As a matter of fact, Christmas being what it is, we really need someone as of now.

So if you fancy giving a hand with a job which brings you into contact with the players, and gets you into matches, contact Terry Tandy or Mike Nichols. Please.

Feeling Charitable?

You may have noticed that we have a new advertising board these days, doing a job in favour of the League of Friends of Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. If you haven't made your charitable donation to anyone yet, this Christmas, you might like to send the Friends a donation. Don Jacobs, National Westminster Bank, Eastgate Street, is the fellow, marking your cheque, or whatever, 'League of Friends'.

As you'll know, we have had reason to be very grateful for our Hospital over the years. Anyone who has suffered structural alteration on the field will testify as to the quality of the treatment they have received.

Incidentally, on a more commercial note, there are still a few spaces for advertising boards available, and with the County Final, and presumably TV, here on January 31st, that's gotta be a good proposition for local businesses. Have a word with Jim Bennett.

England v. Wales

The Club's allocation of tickets for the England v. Wales match at Cardiff on January 17th amounts to the magnificent total of two stand tickets, and a whole two standing tickets. Now I ask you — how can you fairly allocate a total like that?

Accordingly, the Club has decided to run a raffle for them — proceeds to the Players' Tour Fund. Tickets are 25p each, available from the Office or the Social Club, right up to kick-off at the London Scottish Game on January 3rd. The draw will be made at half-time during the game. So why not try a flutter? Members only, please.

El Rugby

Here's a very nice extra Christmas box. The South Western Colts will be playing the Spanish National Colts Side at Kingsholm at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30th. Tickets, Stand £1.00, Ground 60p available from the Office.

So anyone who is still off work on that day, might see something spectacular to bring them up to New Year. How about giving the lads your support? Olé!

Well done Gaddy!

Hearty Congratulations to John Gadd on joining his mates in the South and South West pack in today's Regional game. Not wishing to take anything away from 'Gaddy' at all, it seems a pity we had to lose six forwards and Moggy for a game as important to us as today's. If they have to play these games at all, why not mid-week under floodlights? There are quite enough good grounds to allow this nowadays, and they'd get better gates than at Twickenham. Still, that's not John's fault, Best of luck mate!

Tailpiece

Just a word of thanks for all the kind remarks I've received since taking this job over from the late Arthur Russell. It's a labour of love really, but if anyone wants to make a suggestion, or level an insult, you can contact me on Gloucester 68726.

Meanwhile, there is really only one hackneyed old wish I can give you: A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

PETER ARNOLD.