



# **GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

## **GLOUCESTER V NORTHAMPTON**

**Friday 6th March, 1981  
Kingsholm, Gloucester**

**Kick-off 7.00 p.m.**

0058

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

- RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS
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## ALAN BRINN SPORTS

54 Barton Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

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Full Back  
\*† 15. P. Butler

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Three Quarters  
14. P. Conway  
\* 13. P. Taylor  
\* 12. S. Parsloe  
\*§ 11. R. Mogg

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Half Backs  
10. C. Pryce  
9. S. Baker

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Forwards  
1. M. Preedy  
2. K. White  
3. S. Ashmead  
\*§ 4. S. Boyle  
\* 5. J. Fidler (Capt.)  
6. J. Gadd  
8. M. Teague  
7. M. Longstaff

#### REPLACEMENTS

A. Durkin  
A. Turton

### NORTHAMPTON

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Full Back  
\* 15. C. Mackaness

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Three Quarters  
\* 14. K. Parker  
\* 13. D. Pinches  
12. G. Benstead  
\* 11. P. McGuckian

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Half Backs  
10. M. Ebsworth  
\*† 9. J. J. Page

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Forwards  
\* 1. J. Maciejewski  
\* 2. J. Rapheal  
\*† 3. G. Pearce  
\* 4. V. Cannon  
\* 5. C. Folwell  
6. G. Wilson  
\* 8. G. Poole  
7. G. Wilcox

#### REPLACEMENTS

P. Sweet  
N. Underwood

Referee: A. R. GIBBS (Warwickshire)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



**NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE**

(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

## **A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES**

I do like a town that gets its priorities right.

The last time I visited Northampton, it was to visit the famous Carlesberg Breweries, and any town that can produce 'Special Brew' while at the same time providing a string of excellent players from one of the most famous Rugby Clubs in Britain must have a lot going for it.

It has to be admitted that tonight's visitors have seen palmier days, although a recent win over (if memory serves) Coventry would seem to indicate an incipient revival. Certainly, no Northampton side should ever be taken lightly.

On our visit to Northampton last year, on February 29th (!) we achieved a creditable 12 - 9 win, with Paul Tunstall scoring a try, duly converted by Brian Russell, who also added a couple of penalties.

However, that was last year, and anything could happen tonight. One thing you can rely on absolutely — the 'Saints' always produce bright, entertaining Rugby, and it's a pleasure to see them here tonight.

Good to see you again Northampton!

## **Coming shortly**

Don't seem to have written many programme notes since Christmas, but at least we have one or two forthcoming attractions nowadays which are worthy of your attention.

Gloucester's abominable luck in the John Player Cup Draw continues, with an away game at Richmond against London Scottish. Remember that freezing cold Sunday, with Gloucester going through on a draw? Same ground this time, different Club.

At the other end of the scale, when was the last time Leicester got drawn away?

Leaving JPC aside for a moment, the next game at Kingsholm will be on Wednesday March 18th (7.00 p.m.), when we face the local challenge from Cheltenham, who are riding the crest of a wave at the moment, and producing some good Rugby along the way.

On the following Saturday, March 21st, we entertain the very fine Orrell side, which is undoubtedly a very attractive proposition. The only problem is, that you are going to be faced with a very nasty choice.

What to do? Come here and watch the lads in one of the most intriguing fixtures of the Season, or stay home and see England and France on the 'box', with Phil Blakeway doubtlessly handing out his usual lesson in tight scrummaging? We can't make the decision for you, but do remember that the team values your support, and the Club could do with the gate.

The problem is that Orrell is too far away for them to arrange a Friday evening game, or an early kick-off. An evening game would be just as bad, because the Northerners have to get home sometime.

## **Phil v. the Irish**

Congratulations yet again, to Phil Blakeway, who is in Dublin, preparing to take on the Irish front row. Equally hearty congratulations to Gordon Sargent, who is again a replacement. Apparently, there were just a few minutes when it looked as though 'Sarge' might get his Cap against Scotland, when Bill Beaumont looked concussed enough to come off.

Surely 'Sarge's' time must come soon. Of course, we don't wish Colin Smart any harm . . . .

## **Unclaimed 'Fiver'**

The lucky programme prize for the Bath match on February 14th wasn't claimed. To be fair, there was probably a good reason for it, not unconnected with our friends from Severn Sound.

Apparently, a Somerset mole, or something, chewed through the direct telephone link with the studio, and the intrepid broadcasters had to ferry in their mobile transmitter to cover the match. Unfortunately, the electricians from the unit did 'orrible things to our loudspeaker system, which insisted on howling like a Welsh banshee after a Scotland match.

This meant that the half-time announcement of the lucky programme result had to be relayed at a much lower decibel level than usual, so the winner probably didn't hear his number called.

Luckily, there was a happy solution to the problem. You will remember that our invaluable friends from St. John's Ambulance were holding their annual collection on that day, and it was decided to kick the 'fiver' into the kitty — an action of which the winner, whoever he was, would surely approve.

#### **Anyone for Max?**

You may remember the unique event taking place in the Club next Thursday — March 12th. Briefly, as part of Gloucestershire fast bowler Brian Brain's Testimonial, Max Boyce will be coming along after his show at the Leisure Centre — plus, of course, 'Brainy' himself. The whole thing is an attractive package deal. For a mere £10 you can have one of the best seats at the Leisure Centre show, then it's all back to Kingsholm for a very superior buffet and a jar or two with Max and Brian.

Can't be bad. And there are still just a few tickets left. Why not speak to Alan Brinn or Terry Tandy? At this late hour, it's the only way you're going to get to see Max Boyce in Concert.

#### **Arrangements for London Scottish**

Anyone who saw the London Irish game would admit that, on that form, Gloucester are capable of beating anyone in the Quarter Finals of the John Player Cup. However, it is a bit hard to be drawn away again, and at Richmond, of all places, which doesn't have the happiest associations for us.

London Scottish are going to be very difficult to beat on their patch. They are leading the London Merit Table at present, and one shouldn't read too much into the fact that we beat them at Kingsholm. Scottish were severely weakened that day, and it was the day after Hogmanay.

You'll appreciate that there hasn't been much time to get arrangements settled for tickets, travelling etc. at the time of going to press. In fact I have already kept our Friendly Printer waiting longer than I like for these notes.

Basically, the travel arrangements look like being very similar to last week's. British Rail are running a train again — £5.00 — but enquire at the station about times.

Terry Close will be running two coaches once more, leaving at about 10.00 a.m. One costs £3.50, and gets back early, one gets back late and costs £4.50, because of the need for an extra driver.

The Patrons' Coach will also be similar to last time. £3.50, leave at 10.30, stop on the way up for a beer, and on the way back for something to eat.

The man to see is Andy Mitchell. See him or Terry Close in the Bar afterwards.

As for tickets — at the time of writing, we just don't know. Hopefully, there will be loudspeaker announcements tonight, and we'll keep the Press informed, as ever.

#### **Tailpiece**

There was a very appropriate suggestion made on the Patrons' coach to London Irish. As it was an Irish match, we thought we wouldn't run a 'Guesser' on the way up. We'd run it on the way back.

PETER ARNOLD.