



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v CHELTENHAM

Wednesday, 18th March, 1981

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

922

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. Taylor

* 12. S. Parsloe

*§ 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

10. C. Pryce

*† 9. P. Kingston

Forwards

1. M. Preedy

* 2. S. Mills (Capt.)

3. S. Ashmead

* 4. J. Orwin

* 5. J. Fidler

*† 6. J. Watkins

8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

A. Durkin

A. Turton

CHELTENHAM

Full Back

15. M. Minett

Three Quarters

14. G. Owen

13. G. Warren

12. B. Bartlett

*† 11. L. Dick

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. S. Hall

Forwards

1. J. Hamer

* 2. M. T. Hamlin (Capt.)

3. N. Smart

4. P. Geenty

5. G. Cornish

6. M. Hayes

8. B. Hemming

7. R. Roper

REPLACEMENTS

M. McCulloch

P. Roddwell

Referee: G. JAMES (Leicester Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE

(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Friends and neighbours

It's often said that the traditional strength of Gloucester RFC has a lot to do with the strong and thriving local Rugby scene. There's certainly truth in that, but it would be equally true to say that flourishing competition from neighbouring clubs on the 'first class' circuit is also a powerful influence.

That's why Gloucester supporters have viewed the lean spell which has afflicted Cheltenham for the last few years with some concern. Happily, tonight's visitors have now put that traumatic period behind them — helped, it's only fair to add, by our own Lewis Dick, who keeps his position on the wing for the County, as well as by one or two other players from our neck of the woods.

But even that is an over-simplification. No local Derby of tonight's description can ever be regarded as simply another page from the form book. Everyone knows each other too well for that, and the level of support for both sides is a factor as well.

If you need any proof, you only have to take a look at last season's results. Any visiting pundit wouldn't have put Cheltenham in with a prayer on either occasion, but the score lines spoke for themselves.

In September Gloucester won at Kingsholm by 16 points to 13 — and it took four Peter Butler penalties, plus a typical Steve Boyle try even to achieve that much. At the end of the season, the result at Cheltenham was about the same — 13 - 10, and again Butler's Boot contributed three penalties, with an assist from a try by Steve Ashmead.

And Cheltenham are stronger this year. But then — so are Gloucester. Whatever happens this evening, however, it's good to see our friends and neighbours getting back to their old winning ways. And it's equally good to see them here.

Well done the younger generation

Of course, we know they're good. But national selectors don't always see eye to eye with Kingsholm supporters. That's why it's such a pleasure to see no less than five of our younger players in the England Under 23 Squad.

Hearty congratulations to Paul Ford (following in father's footsteps?) John Gadd, (no surprise after his trial call-up), Mike Teague (no more than deserved), Malcolm Preedy and Steve Ashmead (wouldn't it be nice to have two England props and two England Under 23 props!).

Not wishing to sound ungrateful, we can think of one or two more who could well be knocking on the door soon.

Rough justice

I've been saying for half the season that Gordon Sargent's chance had to come soon, but it was a particularly savage piece of irony that saw him run out in an England shirt for the first time at the expense of Phil Blakeway. I'm sometimes tempted to think that some of the old Welsh Gods are still around, and have their knives into Gloucester.

And 'Sarge' didn't let us down either. He even got one of his familiar charging runs in, only to be pulled back by the ref, who obviously couldn't believe what he was seeing, but thought that there must be something wrong somewhere.

And while we're on the subject, it was with a sigh of relief that we heard that Philip had been given a clean bill of health by the 'quacks'. We want to see him squeezing the juice out of a fair few opposing props yet. So does England.

No John Player Cup this year

Not only does it appear that the old Welsh gods are against us, but the old Scottish ones as well.

Never mind lads — you couldn't have come any closer, and it must be galling in the extreme to have got the ball over the line four times and have every one of the tries disallowed.

Perhaps the most apposite comment so far came from Terry Tandy, who said 'As so often in the past, they didn't win it, and we didn't lose it.'

I can reassure beer drinkers that Scotch Ale will continue to be served in the bar, in spite of everything.

3.00 p.m. on Saturday

We have one of the most attractive fixtures of the year on Saturday next, when we welcome the Northern giants, Orrel. As previously reported, the needs of long-distance travelling dictate that the kick-off will be at 3.00, as usual, in spite of the England and France match on the telly.

It'll be quite an interesting exercise, actually. Over the years there has been a constant trickle of complaints about matches being played on a Friday night on the eve of International matches. Now's the chance for all those complainants to put their feet where their mouths are, so to speak, and trot along to Kingsholm and put Club before Country. After all, you can see Rugby Special on the box.

The Committee will be watching the gate — just to see what happens.

Lady Winner

Those diehard purists (like Norman Partridge), who wouldn't allow ladies anywhere near any Rugby ground now have added ammunition for their chauvinist tendencies.

The lucky programme number for the Northampton game was held by Miss L. Hancock of Sapperton Road. Never mind my dear — you keep on coming along, and take no notice of Norman. You're better looking than he is, anyway.

Tailpiece

Had a nice letter from Martin Crump of Green Lane, Churchdown, who refers to the couple of 'quiz' questions I quoted a while ago, and particularly to the one about the chap who scored 12 points without anyone else touching the ball.

What he asks is "What was the quickest opening try in international Rugby — it was also a try scored without the opposition touching the ball?"

Thanks Martin. I'll give them the answer on Saturday. Meanwhile, I owe you a pint.

PETER ARNOLD.