



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V ORRELL

Saturday, 21st March, 1981

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

358

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. Butler**

Three Quarters

14. P. Conway

*** 13. P. Taylor**

*** 12. S. Parsloe**

***§ 11. R. Mogg**

Half Backs

10. C. Pryce

9. S. Baker

Forwards

*** 1. G. Sargent**

2. K. White

3. S. Ashmead

***§ 4. S. Boyle**

*** 5. J. Fidler (Capt.)**

6. J. Gadd

8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

B. Russell
A. Dix

ORRELL

Full Back

*** 15. S. Langord**

Three Quarters

*** 14. J. Heaton**

*** 13. P. Phillips (Capt.)**

12. F. Clough

11. I. Wilkinson

Half Backs

*** 10. P. Williams**

*** 9. A. Barton**

Forwards

*** 1. S. Southern**

*** 2. N. Hitching**

*** 3. J. Leigh**

4. D. Cusani

*** 5. M. Dearman**

*** 6. P. Moss**

*** 8. D. Balmer**

*** 7. D. Partington**

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: D. HEAD (Cornwall Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Orrell ? — Where's Orrell?

The above headline isn't intended to convey the least iota of disrespect to our visitors today. The point is that, until a very few years ago, it's doubtful that any Kingsholm supporter would have been able to say with any certainty just where Orrell is, and certainly wouldn't have associated the town with Rugby.

(As a matter of fact, Orrell is just a few miles from Wigan, and has a population of some 11,000. Just to confuse matters, the Rugby Union Handbook spells it 'Orrell' and a usually authoritative atlas spells it 'Orrel', so you takes your choice).

So we have, today, one of the game's success stories of the past few years. Recently, they have proved more than a handful for several very good clubs, and with our lads out to prove something after last Saturday's disappointment, all looks set fair for a very good game.

The pity of it is that the overcrowded fixture list makes it impossible for us to play two matches against our visitors in one season, so we can only welcome them here once in two years.

This time last year we visited them in their Northern stronghold, (we know all about Lancashire Rugby in these parts) and came away with a 10-6 win after a hard-fought game. Steve Boyle scored his usual try, and Peter Butler kicked two penalties.

So — hearty welcome Orrell (Orrel ?). We hope you enjoy your visit as much as we enjoy having you.

Thanks for coming

As you very well know, we tend to play games on a Friday evening during an International week-end, but the problems of travel for our visitors have eliminated that as an option this time. It also killed any thought of an early kick-off, and assuming that Orrell has 'omes to go to, prevented playing the match under lights this evening. Combine that with the interesting state of the International Championship, with Phil Blakeway fit again, and quite a few people here today must have had many an inward struggle before deciding to come along.

The Players and Committee, therefore, while always delighted to have your support, are doubly so this time. We know that some people don't like the Friday games, and indeed have said so in no uncertain terms, from time to time, so the Committee will be watching today's gate with a great deal of interest.

Anyway — wouldn't you rather watch a good-quality 'live' match than one on the box—even when it is England and France?

Patrons' Night

This year's Patrons' Night will be held on Thursday April 2nd, and will follow very much the format of recent years — including, following the success of last year's effort — an all-action Race Night. Patrons will remember Fred Reed's expert impersonation of an auctioneer on that occasion.

Tickets are free to Patrons, but the postal bill would simply be too large to send them all out 'on spec' as it were, so anyone wishing to come along is asked to see Terry Tandy, Cecil Pope or Andy Mitchell.

Well done Phil!

Phil Blakeway had us all worried for a while, but it's good to see that he is quite happy that he is fit to conduct his own brand of mayhem at tight head against today's French team. Congratulations again Phil — long may you continue!

(Incidentally what— must the atmosphere be like when you're propping against a French scrum? All that garlic).

... and well done Skipper!

It's also good to see Steve Mills back as a replacement in today's International. It's even better to be able to congratulate him on his selection for the Barbarians against Northampton a little later on.

Stormclouds

Have you noticed that the highly unpopular and apathetic Divisional Championship has been extended from two Saturdays to three next season? What do they think they're playing at!

With the County Championship, a trial, and Internationals, it means that there are likely to be only three or four Saturdays in the first two-thirds of the season when supporters of teams like Gloucester can expect to see a full-strength side in action.

Our Committee are fighting all they can to get things changed, but, at the moment, it has been described to me as "like beating our heads against a brick wall."

Personally, I like the comment of the Northumberland Captain, just before the County Final — "If they can't select the best team from club matches and the County Championship, then we have the wrong selectors!"

Look what happened to Alec Bedser!

Incidentally, these comments are entirely my own, I'd hate to see someone get their knife into the Club just because of my personal opinions.

Max and Brian

Those of you who weren't there will be pleased to know that the Max Boyce/Brian Brain evening in the Club last week was a fine event with over 100 people in attendance after the concert at the Leisure Centre.

All the figures aren't in yet, but it looks as though Brian Brain's Testimonial Fund will be some £200 richer as a result.

... and St. John's

Thanks, also, to all the generous people who supported the St. John's Ambulance collection at the Bath game. It raised about £191, which is a creditable effort.

And while we're on the subject, it would be appropriate to thank our friends from St. John's for the unfailing and excellent service they provide at all our home matches. It would be difficult to manage without them.

See you at Easter

We only have two home first team matches left now — New Brighton on Easter Saturday, and Bill Beaumont's Fylde on Easter Monday. Not a bad wind up to what has been a very interesting season.

Of course, you could take a trip down to Lydney on April 16th (Thursday). As they'd agree down in Bristol, giant killing is in fashion.

Meanwhile, the United will be worth watching. They have Kidderminster Caroleans here next Saturday, and Fullerians the Saturday after. Or how about a trip to the Forest to see them in action against Berry Hill on the 6th of April? Finally, there's Bridgend Sports on April 11th, and that's bound to be good.

Tailpiece

Now the answer to Martin Crump's teaser, printed in the Cheltenham programme. You'll remember that he wanted to know the occasion of the quickest opening try in International Rugby — a try in which none of the opposition touched the ball.

Martin's source of information is Wallace Rayburn's 'Twickenham — the Story of a Rugby Ground', and the tale goes like this:

In the England v. Wales game at Twickenham in 1923, Wavell Wakefield kicked off into the teeth of a howling gale. The ball blew straight back into the arms of Leo Price (Oxford and Harlequins) who, rather optimistically, tried to drop a goal. Not too surprisingly, it came straight back to him, and noticing that everyone had their backs turned, chasing the attempted drop, he nipped in and scored under the posts. The time was just 14 seconds.

Thanks Martin! It occurs to me that Bob Clewes' try against Newport a couple of years ago, must have been just about as quick.

PETER ARNOLD