

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT
CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V V FYLDE

Monday, 20th April, 1981 Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

1092

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

RUGBY BOOTS O JERSEYS AND SHORTS OBALLS OCLUB DISCOUNTS OINDIVIDUAL DISCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS

• Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

54 Barton Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

GLOUCESTEF

Cherry & White

Full Back

15. A. Durkin

Three Quarters

* 14. R. Clewes

*§ 13. R. Mogg

* 12. P. Taylor

11. P. Tunstall

Half Backs

10. C. Pryce

9. S. Baker

Forwards

1. M. Preedy

2. K. White

§ 3. S. Ashmead

4. S. Boyle (Capt.)

5. J. Brain

§ 6. J. Gadd

2 8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

P. Ford

J. Haines *

A. Brooks

FYLDE

Full Back

15. J. Aitchison

Three Quarters

14. S. Smith

13. S. Simmons

12. J. Gregory

11. M. Nelson

Half Backs

10. K. Aitchison

9. M. Weir (Capt.)

Forwards

1. D. Tabern

2. M. Dixon

3. P. Faulkner

4. W. Beaumont

5. D. Thomas

6. A. Simpson

8. M. Hesketh

7. J. Hartley

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: G. E. JONES (Somerset Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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7 LLANTHONY ROAD
GLOUCESTER
Tel: 35010

Home for the last time

It only seems a few weeks ago that I was commenting on the start of a new Season. Now here we are at our last home game.

It's a happy coincidence that our final visitors of the 1980/81 Season should be Fylde, the team of the great Bill Beaumont, Lions and England Captain, and one of the great gentlemen of the game.

Even without Bill, Fylde are no-one's pushover. They beat us on their own ground last year, early in the Season, by 9 points to 3, those 3 coming inevitably through the medium of a Peter Butler penalty.

As I was saying on Saturday, we seem to play most of the top Northern teams, these days, and such a list would certainly not be complete without Fylde.

Welcome Fylde - we wouldn't wish for anyone better to finish our home fixtures for us.

Backward glance

It's been a funny old Season, hasn't it? Horrible thrashings by Moseley and Newport — both avenged later. Superb victories over Pontypool and Leicester (six tries!). And do you remember the hammering we gave Coventry in the last 15 minutes or so, with 10 reserves in the side?

Then there was the knee-trembler against Southend, followed by a great display against London Irish, and a most unlucky departure from the John Player against our old bogeys, London Scottish.

It's been odd for the players too. Paul Ford keeping out Peter Butler on merit. John Fidler incarcerated in the United, but still playing in the County Final, and ending with a well-deserved place in the England tour party for Argentina.

A player as good as Paul Wood not being able to command a place. John Gadd emerging as a very real England possible. Steve Baker on reserve for the National side. Gordon Sargent getting his cap at last, but only at the expense of an injury to Phil Blakeway.

Really - a Season to remember, but not always for the good things.

But that's what supporting Gloucester is all about. We might get screwed occasionally, but never bored.

That ***!!! Divisional Championship

You may have noticed that the County, supported by Somerset and several others are trying to get the Divisional Championship abolished. And more power to their elbows, say I.

The grapevine has it that the decision has already been made to abandon it for next Season, partly because of the pressure of the Australian tour next Winter. Which is a bit of a U-turn, considering that the decision had already been made to hold the thing over three Saturdays, instead of two.

The County, I am told, will, in spite of this, continue with their opposition. They don't see that bowing to a face-saving exercise for one season only solves any problems. Anyone who likes to see their top players as often as possible, wants to see the thing obliterated, once and for all.

It seems that only the Selectors want it — and even Budge Rogers is on record as complaining that some of the top players, this Season, were only going through the motions.

The Club's position is quite clear. We don't see that we can support both the Thorn County Championship and the Divisional competition, which is a big yawn as far as supporters are concerned.

Come to Kingsholm any time there's a County match, and you see a very different picture. So — the best of luck to the County in their fight to get some sense back into things.

Welcome Advertisers!

If you see a few unfamiliar faces around this afternoon, it's because this is the day when all those splendid people who take advertising space in the Programme, are invited along for free. In fact, each Company gets two free tickets to disburse among their staff.

Surely, this is the least we can do. After all, if it weren't for the advertisers, you wouldn't have a programme. And we're quite sure that advertisers find it a worthwhile regular means of publicity.

So thanks, gentlemen. Apart from anything else, if it weren't for you, I'd be out of a job.

Exeter Sevens

Don't forget — we're in the Exeter Sevens again this year. Kick-off 12.00 noon, date May 4th — Bank Holiday Monday.

Last year, we ended as Runners-up after a day which, everyone who went along, tells me was full of excitement and interest.

So why not go along and support them this year? We might win it this time.

Thanks all round

This is surely the day on which we should say a warm 'Thanks' to the very large number of people who do something to make the Club the great institution it is. Naturally, we appreciate the efforts of such stalwarts as our friends from St. John Ambulance, but have you considered just how many other people there are?

The lads who sell programmes, the chaps who take your money at the gates, the fellows on the car park, the people behind the bar, the ladies who provide refreshments — and that's by no means an exhaustive list.

So, whoever you are, and whatever you do, a genuine vote of thanks from all of us who simply come along to enjoy our Rugby. We couldn't manage without you.

Coming to Exeter?

The Patrons coach to Exeter next Saturday is well and truly on. Anyone who went last time will thoroughly recommend it.

Cost £3.50, leave Kingsholm at 10.00 a.m., with appropriate stops for refreshment on the way, and back.

See Andy Mitchell. Incidentally, if you're one of the people who has already spoken to him, don't bother to do so again. He knows all about you.

All the Winners

Seems a long time since we reported the winners in the 250 Club Draw. An omission which we will now rectify.

In February, the £25 prize was won by No. 26, J. Nicholls, and £10 prizes went to Ted Pope (36), E. C. Bennett (153), Alan Smith (115) and Frank Bramner (49).

In March, Peter Butler and Colyn Price won the £25 prize with No. 152, followed by Adrian Turton (237) with the first £10 (Cries of "Fiddle" and "Players' Benefit", I believe). However Terry Warner restored the balance with ticket 63, and the other two £10 winners were F. Nicholls (25) and Dave Fell (207).

So now you know who to stand next to at the bar.

Tailpiece

Just a personal word of my own. I've thoroughly enjoyed my stint as programme 'scribe' this year (Even if it does get me in trouble with BBC Television occasionally).

I have greatly appreciated all the kind comments I've received, and I think that, without exception, every criticism I have had has been constructive.

I'm not assuming that the Committee will ask me to do the job again next Season, but if no one else wants to have a go, I think they could twist my arm.

However, whether I slave over a hot typewriter or not next Season, you can be sure that I'll be in my usual place in the stand, cheering the lads, and saying rude things about selectors.

So - until September

Have a good Summer.

PETER ARNOLD.