



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V ROSSLYN PARK

**Wednesday, 16th September, 1981
Kingsholm, Gloucester**

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

0094

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GLOUCESTER

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| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Full Back | |
| | 15. A. Durkin |
| Three Quarters | |
| * | 14. R. Clewes |
| *§ | 13. R. Mogg |
| * | 12. P. Taylor |
| | 11. P. Pritchard |
| Half Backs | |
| | 10. L. Jones |
| § | 9. S. Baker |
| Forwards | |
| | 1. M. Preddy |
| *† | 2. S. Mills (Capt.) |
| | 3. S. Ashmead |
| *§ | 4. S. Boyle |
| *† | 5. J. Fidler |
| § | 6. J. Gadd |
| § | 8. M. Teague |
| | 7. P. Wood |
| REPLACEMENTS | |
| | P. Howell * |
| | K. White |

ROSSLYN PARK

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Full Back | |
| * | 15 P. Bate |
| Three Quarters | |
| * | 14. S. Tiddy |
| | 13. J. Reed |
| * | 12. N. Anderson |
| * | 11. S. Archer |
| Half Backs | |
| * | 10. J. Thornton |
| | 9. D. Smith |
| Forwards | |
| * | 1. P. Curtis |
| | 2. I. Smith |
| * | 3. P. Hinton |
| * | 4. P. de Lacy |
| * | 5. P. Ackford |
| † | 6. N. Mantell (Capt.) |
| † | 8. A. Ripley |
| * | 7. G. Edmonds |
| REPLACEMENTS | |

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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The return of Rosslyn Park!

Sorry if tonight's programme notes have to start by reopening old wounds, but the fact is that the last time the famous 'Park' side visited us — they won. The date was March 8th, 1980, and the occasion was the John Player Cup competition.

Like most cup matches — in the latter stages of the Competition, at any rate — this was a dour sort of struggle, with the visitors squeaking it by 6 points to 3. Brian Russell kicked Gloucester's solitary penalty, and the honours on the Park side went to Charles Ralston, late houseman at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, and nowadays playing full-back for Bath. You can sometimes still hear the argument about whether Peter Butler should have played in that game or not.

However, JPC games are a law unto themselves, and the suspicion persists that neither side really did themselves justice on that occasion. Tonight's festivities bid fair to remedy that state of affairs.

No London club has a prouder tradition, or a better record, than Rosslyn Park, and it seems odd that, with London Welsh, they are about the only major Metropolitan Club with which Gloucester have not had regular fixtures. It's therefore a delight to have them here, and we all hope that tonight is just the first of a continuous string of enjoyable encounters.

Rosslyn Park — we're very glad to see you at Kingsholm. We'll undoubtedly show you traditional 'Elver Eater' hospitality; on the field, and in the bar afterwards.

Pontypridd on Saturday

If ever the loss of a fixture worked out well in the end, it was the defection of Cardiff a couple of years ago. Their replacements were the lads from Pontypridd, and from the first moment they arrived on the ground, with their army of very vocal supporters, it became obvious that the fixtures were going to become memorable. And so they have proved — although Gloucester has yet to win one of them.

Perhaps that could come on Saturday, when Pontypridd make their second excursion to Kingsholm. Surely a 'must' for any regular Kingsholm fan.

The following Wednesday (Sept. 23rd) we have another Welsh invasion when Newbridge are the visitors. On Saturday, the United take on their counterparts from Bristol, then continue their home run with a visit from Llantwit Major on Tuesday 29th. The night after that, we entertain the revived Cheltenham side, which is always a star attraction.

So there's plenty to get your teeth into over the next couple of weeks. I shall be here — will you?

How about the youngsters?

It has been said that the future of a Club can be measured by its Colts. If that's so — and it seems logical — then you'll be interested to note that our Colts XV start this season's activities with a foray to Moseley, on September 24th. If anyone happens to be in that area on that day, then it would certainly be worth your while delaying your return to pay a visit to the Reddings.

The Colts first home fixture is against Nuneaton on October 21st. Seems like a long way away, but worth noting in your diary, nevertheless.

Leagues loom closer

Do you see that the RFU have published their first thoughts about a League structure, which they would like to commence in 1983? The idea is too complex to explore fully here, but some relief must be felt at the proposal that the League fixtures wouldn't take more than eleven Saturdays from the Season. This should ease some of the fears about our strong and traditional Welsh fixtures, and about our obligations to our more local 'Derby' matches. Nevertheless, the re-structured County Championship, International days, and even the execrable Divisional trials, if they ever rear their boring heads again, also have to be taken into account.

Nevertheless, the Club is keeping an open mind on the whole subject, for the moment, although comments have to be in by early in November.

It's also interesting to note that Bath and Coventry are, at this stage, relegated to the second division of the competition. With promotion and relegation an integral part of the whole scheme, I'll bet things won't stay like that long!

250 Club

As always, at this time of the year, Andy Mitchell could fit you in if you would like to join the 250 Club this season. After all, it does give you a fighting chance of winning your beer money for the season, or even a bit more. See Andy in the Clubhouse.

The season's first Fivers

Talking about beer money, we now have two worthy winners of the regular lucky programme number draw. At the Stroud match, the free fiver went to Alan Dix, of 11, Hanman Road, Gloucester who had bought programme no 276. It's nice to know the players buy programmes too!

There's a slightly sinister ring to the whole matter of the fiver won at the Coventry game. The programme number was 007, and it was held by Mr. T. Smith of 54, Mayfield Drive, Hucclecote. No doubt, he was shaken but not stirred.

Smith? Sounds like an alias to me. SMERSH please note.

Farewell to P K-R

Terry Tandy came back from sunning himself on the Costa del Jersey with a piece of news, which I must admit had escaped me. However, it's particularly appropriate to report it tonight.

Phil Keith-Roach, that stalwart hooker and last season's Rosslyn Park skipper has, at long last, decided to call it a day. Although Phil's 40th birthday is not far over the horizon, it wasn't advancing years that made him make the decision, but a change of job. He is now a Housemaster at Dulwich College, and feels that he must give his first priorities to the responsibilities of that position.

You may remember that Phil is a Stroud man originally, and played for Gloucester some years ago. Indeed, we had two promising hookers in those days, Phil Keith-Roach and one Mike Nicholls. At the time, the rivalry for the top hooking spot was intense, but friendly.

Phil's job took him away, and his Rugby went from strength to strength. He played at every level except full international (Perhaps someone told the selectors he came from Gloucester).

Remarkably, he captained every level of Rugby at which he played—club, County, University (Cambridge), and regional. Perhaps he could be persuaded not to sever his links with the game. His experience and personality would make him invaluable administrator material.

Perhaps our visitors tonight would be good enough to take back the best wishes of the Kingsholm Klan to Phil when they see him again. He'll always find a welcome here.

Tailpiece

Have you noticed that we have been honoured by the presence of the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Gloucester, in his official capacity, at both of our home games so far this season? He was the guest of our Sponsors on both occasions.

Now this doesn't mean that Gloucester RFC has suddenly become respectable, or joined the Establishment in any way, you'll be relieved to hear. It's just that our Mayor this year is Councillor Roger Langston, and I reckon that you could count the number of Kingsholm matches which he has missed over the last 85 years or so, on the fingers of one hand. In fact, he was a pretty fair full-back himself, in his day.

Just to round it off, if you were in the bar after the Coventry game, you could have seen a group drinking together which consisted of the Mayor, two past Mayors, two Deputy Mayors and four Sheriffs of Gloucester. Yet there were only five in the group. Care to guess who they were?

PETER ARNOLD