



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

## GLOUCESTER V EBBW VALE

Wednesday, 14th October, 1981  
Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

072



- RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS
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### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back

15. P. Ford

Three Quarters

14. P. Pritchard

\* 13. P. Taylor

\* 12. S. Parsloe

\*§ 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

\* 10. L. Jones

\* 9. P. Howell

Forwards

\*† 1. G. Sargent

\*† 2. S. Mills (Capt.)

3. A. Brookes

\*§ 4. S. Boyle

\* 5. J. Orwin

§ 6. J. Gadd

§ 8. M. Teague

\* 7. P. Wood

REPLACEMENTS

S. Baker §

K. White

### EBBW VALE

Full Back

15. W. Bow

Three Quarters

14. D. Parry

13. M. Dobbs

12. G. Parry

11. M. Hughes

Half Backs

10. G. Lawrence

9. D. Bishop

Forwards

1. C. Williams

2. J. Williams (Capt.)

3. P. Morgan

4. D. Didgood

5. S. Duke

6. P. Gardner

8. G. Davies

7. D. Boucher

REPLACEMENTS

M. Nicholas

S. Lewis

Referee: M. MORGAN (Bristol Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



**NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE**  
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2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

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### **Three down and two to go!**

We do seem to be getting our fair share of Welsh enthusiasm and expertise these days! Tonight's match is the fourth against leading sides from the Principality in 25 days — with a fifth to come on Saturday.

Perhaps it would be churlish to mention that we've beaten the first three; a state of affairs which Ebbw Vale will be doing their best to rectify this evening.

It sometimes seems that Ebbw Vale doesn't get the publicity which a club of such stature deserves. The Pontypools, Bridgends and Cardiffs of this world are always hitting the headlines, but don't let that fool you — Ebbw Vale are no pushovers, in any sense of the word — but then — what Welsh team is?

When we made the trip away last year, we beat tonight's visitors by 18 points to 10. It was an early-season match, and Gloucester were starting with a bang, before coming a fearful cropper against Newport. This year's game is a month or so later, and things have settled down, more or less, so too much should not be read into that result.

And another thing — 'Ebbw' would be delighted to return home with the scalps of the team which ended Pontypool's unbeaten gallop.

So — welcome to Kingsholm, Ebbw Vale. If the game's half as good as the one we saw last Wednesday, everyone will go home happy — whoever wins.

### **Thank you, and good night, Jimmy Savile!**

You may, or may not, agree that 'this is the age of the train', but we certainly can't grumble about the service we get from British Rail when there's a Rugby match on.

Our very good friend Mr. J. Pembridge, who manages the Travel Centre at Gloucester Station, wrote to Terry Tandy recently, and I quote, "It may be mutually helpful to provide a list of destinations and fares so that our Rugby friends can plan ahead."

Couldn't agree more. And as the fares listed represent quite substantial savings over normal rail fares, it gives me considerable pleasure to pass the information on.

You could travel by train to Leicester for the game on November 7th for £4.00 return. When the boys visit Moseley on December 5th, the fare to Birmingham station will be £2.50. Or two weeks later, you could go to Coventry for £4.00.

If you fancy a trip to clear the Christmas fog on December 28th, then there's a real bargain — only £2.30, and on that one, two can travel for the price of one. Which can't be bad for a trip to Newport.

Incidentally, fares for supporters under 14 years old, are exactly half the price quoted. Details of times from the Travel Centre (29501).

Well — BR can't really say fairer than that. I'll slip in the odd reminder as the matches roll on.

### **Five home bankers**

Not that I'm guaranteeing a win in every case, but we're now about to enter a string of five home games which you can bank on for sheer good Rugby.

On Saturday, of course, we have a visit from Newport and you'll remember that we suffered a 38-6 thrashing at their hands last season at Rodney Road before squeaking a 13-11 win at home later in the season. You won't want to miss that one, I'm sure.

On the following Saturday we entertain Nottingham, who aren't easy meat, followed by a visit on Wednesday 28th by an encounter with the fit, keen students from Loughborough.

In fact, that week is a bit academic, so to speak, because Oxford University come here on Saturday 31st, and I gather that our old friend, Bedford, Bath and England winger Derek Wyatt, might well be playing in that game, at the ripe old age of 31.

To complete the string, South Wales Police are here on November 4th.

Meanwhile, the United aren't exactly idle, either. One of the most intriguing games of the year is in prospect on October 20th, with a visit from the unbeaten and formidable Berry Hill side, while on November 2nd — a Monday — Newport High School Old Boys are the visitors.

One way and another, we have plenty to look forward to.



**... and don't forget the youngsters!**

The future of Gloucester Rugby is in good hands — and if you have any reason to doubt that, I suggest you come along to Kingsholm on Wednesday October 21st, when the Colts XV take on Nuneaton. You might also like to make a note that the lads are at home again on November 11th, when we have a visit from our old friends, the Colts from Brixham.

Sometimes, we get so involved with the technicalities of the game, and (like the Lady from Khartoum), in who's doing what, and to whom, that we forget the simple, basic skills, and the sheer exuberance of the game. Well — if you feel you need a refresher course, I can heartily recommend a 'shufti' at the Colts. If you haven't seen them before, you're in for a treat.

**We're for ever winning bubbles!**

I don't know whether you noticed, but Gloucester won the 'Sunday Telegraph' Victoria Wine Company Team of the Week award last week. The prize consists of a Methusaleh of Champagne.

Now, a 'Methusaleh' is not an unkind reference to the age of the players — hardly justified in our case, anyway, — but is a standard size of champagne bottle. It holds — as far as I can ascertain — the equivalent of eight ordinary bottles, which should be just about enough to wet Steve Boyle's whistle after he's scored a kamikaze try or two. I am informed, however, that there may be some competition, notably from an eminent Selector.

You may remember that this is the second time the team has won the award (they didn't give me any, first time either), and that last year, the feat that won it was the defeat of Pontypool on their own patch. Oddly enough, 'Pooler' were the unwilling cause of the award again, after their unbeaten record was taken at Kingsholm last Wednesday.

Getting to be a habit!

**Good start by the County**

Can't let the opportunity go by without congratulating Gloucestershire on their big win over Devon to start the County Championship campaign. It only seems yesterday since we needed all Steve Mill's computer skills to work out who had won the Group, Glos, coming out on top over Devon by a miniscule 0.001 of a point. How times change!

More surprising, perhaps, was Cornwall's fine win over Somerset, who, since the qualification rule changed, are fielding a very strong (on paper) side this season, including such stalwarts as Bath's John Horton and Charles Ralston. Gloucestershire shouldn't take their trip to Bath at all easily this season.

We must also congratulate the Gloucester contingent, all of whom did more than their fair share towards the Devon win. Special mention should be made of the parts played by John Orwin and Les Jones on their County Debuts. If there were 'Man of the Match' awards in this game, surely Les would have won it by a mile, and John, I gather, opened a few eyes too.

Well done lads!

**Fiver to Ross**

Any chap who wins himself a 'fiver' as well as seeing a game like we had last Wednesday, must have been festooning himself with heather, wearing a horseshoe round his neck, and tying knots in black cats.

We don't know whether Mr. G. M. Jones of 39, Duxmere Drive, Ross-on-Wye did any of those things, but by buying Programme No. 848 at the Pontypool game, he did strike lucky.

Congratulations Mr. Jones. 'Jones'? Could it be a Welsh name? If so, at least there was some consolation.

**Tonight's the night**

... when Patrons must make sure they have their cards receipted. If not you'll find they aren't valid on Saturday.

See Cecil Pope or Peter Denham.

**Tailpiece**

Did you notice that our old friend Nigel Starmer-Smith has been appointed Editor of the RFU's revived 'Rugby Post' Magazine?

To quote someone whose name escapes me for the moment: "Well—There's a surprise!"

PETER ARNOLD