



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V LONDON IRISH

MATCH SPONSOR TODAY

DUCK, SON & PINKER

52-56 Southgate Street, Gloucester

Sunday, 29th November, 1981

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

426

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

Match sponsor today **DUCK, SON & PINKER**

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. S. Baker

Forwards

*† 1. G. Sargent

*† 2. S. Mills (Capt.)

3. A. Brookes

* 4. J. Orwin

*§ 5. S. Boyle

§ 6. J. Gadd

§ 8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

A. Durkin

A. Turton

LONDON IRISH

Full Back

15. J. Walsh

Three Quarters

14. J. Bates

13. T. Watkinson

12. P. O'Donnell

11. C. Meanwell

Half Backs

10. H. Condon

9. N. McCulla

Forwards

1. A. Newberry

2. G. Beringer

3. P. Enevoldson

4. J. Sheehan

5. G. McCarthy

6. P. Crotty

8. M. Smythe

7. W. Jones

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: J. WILLIAMS (Warwickshire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Had a good lie in?

It has often been said that Rugby is a religious observance in Gloucester, but it isn't usual for us to take it to the extreme of playing our matches on a Sunday. Indeed, I am told that there is no truth in the rumour that we're taking on a Lord's Day Observance Society XV next week.

My memories of the last two Sunday games are mixed. You may well recall the fog-bound game against an International XV, when all most of us saw were glimpses of Gareth Edwards and Gerald Davies popping in and out of the mists like dolphins at play.

There was also the occasion when our two cup-winning sides played each other. My favourite impression of that game is the voice of Micky Booth calling 'One, Two, Orange!' to his convulsed line out forwards.

This is the first Sunday match against genuine, strong, club opposition for a very long time, however, and our thanks are due to the London Irish Club for their co-operation in staging the game. Indeed, I hear a whisper that it was their suggestion.

Quite apart from the County's use of the ground yesterday, we wouldn't have wanted to insult London Irish by taking them on with half a side which would have happened if the County had played elsewhere. Similarly, the Irish had various players involved in Provincial matches yesterday, who have flown back for today's game. In fact, the whole thing has worked out well for everyone.

A drop of Irish

It does, somehow, seem appropriate that we're playing on Sunday this week. The top English club in the 'Daily Mail' Anglo-Welsh Merit Table, (How is it the newspaper never mentions the fact?), taking on the only unbeaten first class side in the Union, does deserve something special, and indeed, the record of games between the two clubs, recently, does nothing to weaken that argument.

Two seasons ago, at Kingsholm, the Irish handed out a lesson, winning by 12 points to 3, in a game in which Peter Butler's boot provided the only Gloucester score.

Last season, the two teams met twice. The Kingsholm fixture was a very tight affair, with the visitors squeaking past us by the odd point in 19. The second encounter was in the John Player, when the Kingsholm hordes who travelled were thrilled by a fine game, which Gloucester won 22-13.

The abiding memory of most of us who were there will be of the generous applause the Gloucester side got — especially the front five — and the slightly overwhelming after-match hospitality dispensed in a jam-packed bar.

All in all, London Irish make a very distinguished second attraction in a 'double' which must represent the best weekend's Rugby seen in the City for a very long time. We really couldn't have wished for better opposition.

So 'Cead mile Failte', Irish! After all, they do say 'The better the day, the better the deed'.

Coming shortly . . .

Next week, we're scheduled to visit our old rivals at Moseley, but there could be developments there, so watch the press. This is followed by our usual visit from Exeter University on Wednesday December 9th — sorry, but I still can't help thinking of them as 'St. Lukes'.

In two weeks time, we have a very attractive Merit Table match when our visitors are Bath, now showing signs of playing up to their true form — one not to be missed!

. . . and make plans for Christmas

It might shock you to realise that it isn't too early to mention the Christmas programme— just so that you can lay Yuletide plans accordingly.

We have the Australia v. S. and S.W. Counties game on Tuesday 22nd, of course, and then our traditional game against County Cup winners, and John Player qualifiers, Lydney on Boxing Day.

On the 28th, we have a tough visit to Newport, but the 'plum' holiday game must be the visit of Moseley on New Year's Day. If you're thinking of coming along, pray we don't get the frost that has bedevilled that fixture recently.

If you happen to be spending the holiday in London, you might also make a note that we're visiting our old bogies London Scottish on Saturday January 2nd. A bit close to Hogmanay for comfort!

United too!

The United have been going great guns lately, with, I can't resist adding, a little help from Old Cryptians. (Sorry about that!). Next Saturday, they are entertaining Moseley at Kingsholm, but before then, we have an attractive fixture against Glamorgan Wanderers, right here at Kingsholm, on Wednesday evening.

Must be worth a visit.

... and talking about next Wednesday

If you are one of those Members who haven't put in an application for a ticket for the Australian game, on December 22nd, you'd better get your skates on, Terry Tandy must hear from you by next Wednesday, December 2nd, or your name won't go into the ballot. Write to him at 17, Ogbourne Close, Longlevens, enclosing your cheque/PO for £4 — there's no point in sending more: you'll only get one ticket, even if your name does come out of the hat — plus a stamped addressed envelope.

Of course, Ground tickets are still thoroughly available, and will be on sale at the Office after today's game. Cost, £2, one pound for Juniors.

Never on Sunday

Of course, one of the disadvantages of working for our generous sponsors Duck, Son & Pinker is that they can't often get along at weekends, to see the game they are so generously supporting. Unless Sunday trading has suddenly come in, that may be rectified today. It's an ill wind

On the other hand, you can always drop in and see them. Especially with the problem of Christmas presents on your mind.

Any budding Max Boyces?

It's time some Glawster musician made up a song about the Gloucester Front Row, To see them picked as a unit for the South and South West team to take on the Australians is gratifying in the extreme. Our congratulations to Phil Blakeway, Steve Mills and Malcolm Preedy.

Similarly, John Gadd and Richard Mogg continue their progress, and Mike Teague and Steve Baker, named as a replacement, must have only just lost out.

Well done chaps!

Tailpiece

That inveterate Rugby addict, the Right Worshipful, The Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor Roger Langston was fortunate enough to acquire a ticket in the Stand for the Australia v. Pontypool match — purely as a private citizen, no 'perks' about it — and tells me of a splendid encounter in the later stages of the game.

Apparently, he was sitting next to a very large Pontypool supporter, built like a pithead winding gear, and sporting a Pontypool shirt. When the score reached about 30 points to nil, the supporter shook his head sadly, and remarked to his neighbour on the other side that perhaps the Wallabies should have played "Some stronger side, like Swansea, or Cardiff."

Roger told me "I should have known better, but I couldn't resist it. I leaned over and added '... or Gloucester'."

The Welshman turned to destroy the impertinent English maggot, stared for a while, and then his face lit up like a Celtic sunrise.

"Ah well!" He said, "After this year's result, I can't really argue, can I?"

And finally, our resident Irish gateman and hole in the road spotter Jimmy Coughlin, asks me to point out that this is the only match in the year when he shouts for the Opposition.

Deportation proceedings continue.

PETER ARNOLD.