



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V LYDNEY

**Saturday, 26th December, 1981
Kingsholm, Gloucester**

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

535

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

- RUGBY BOOTS
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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back

15. P. Ford

Three Quarters

*§ 14. R. Mogg

* 13. S. Parsloe

* 12. P. Taylor

11. P. Pritchard

Half Backs

* 10. L. Jones

§ 9. S. Baker

Forwards

1. A. Brooks

*† 2. S. Mills (Capt.)

*† 3. G. Sargent

4. N. Payne

5. J. Brain

*† 6. J. Watkins

§ 8. M. Teague

7. M. Longstaff

REPLACEMENTS

LYDNEY

Full Back

15. I. Wilkins

Three Quarters

14. A. Eagles

13. B. Vine

12. J. Saville

11. A. Richards

Half Backs

10. C. Price

9. K. Rodway

Forwards

1. R. Davis

2. L. Weaver

3. B. Harris

4. P. Grindle

5. J. Weech

6. K. Davies

8. A. Curtis

7. P. Jones

REPLACEMENTS

J. Thomas

R. Lambert

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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Is anybody out there?

As I write this, by the light of a guttering candle in my poor, sparsely-furnished garret, and thinking how nice it would be to be one of the Gentry looking forward to Christmas turkey, instead of filching a tin of tuna from the cat, the wind is howling round like a Welshman who got left off the International ticket allocation, and the rain is hitting the windows as if personally ordered by Noah.

All this, after snow, hail, and temperatures low enough to freeze the ballcocks off a brass cistern.

It makes me wonder if anyone will actually read my glorious prose this time. If they do, it will be the first time since November 29th, which was the London Irish game. Having prepared programmes for Exeter University and Bath, we found that it was wasted effort, to the financial discomfort of the Club, and the detriment of Britain's literary heritage.

If they do, it will also mean that Gloucester RFC are back in business. So we can forget the climate, and get on with enjoying the most intriguing season we've had for years. And not before time either.

There's nothing like a traditional Christmas

. . . and the visit of Lydney on Boxing Day has become as much a part of a traditional Gloucester Christmas as pudding and hangovers. Much as, in the old days, we used to welcome our annual visit by Old Merchant Tailors, it has always seemed more appropriate that our close neighbours from across the Severn should be our guests at this time of the year.

All right — so we do get more glamorous teams from time to time: ones that catch the national headlines more often, at any rate, but the Gloucester scene would be much the poorer without our list of fixtures against more local sides, and among these, we regard Lydney with as much respect as anyone.

Last year, the Boxing Day game resulted in a 20 pts. - 6 win for Gloucester, and the year before that, we won by 21 points to 3. One of the try-scorers in that game was Colyn Price, and without seeing the team lists, the chances are that he will be trying to do the same thing today — in the opposite direction. Probably, Ian Wilkins will have ideas along the same lines, and we had hoped to see Paul Howell, but the fates have decreed otherwise.

Perhaps we could also take the opportunity to wish Lydney well in their John Player campaign, starting soon. Admittedly, they have a much tougher job, in meeting London Welsh, than Gloucester do, but stranger things have happened, as when Gloucester visited the 'Welsh' in the first season of the knockout competition.

Certainly, the opposition should never consider Lydney a pushover. Gloucester don't, and we know more about them than most 'foreign' sides do.

So, Season's Greetings, Lydney. We couldn't wish for a better Boxing Day fixture.

Catching up with congratulations

It can never get boring to congratulate Gloucester players for gaining recognition in the game, but I do seem to have been doing so, this season, with very great regularity. The fact that the programme has been frosted out for almost a month means that the list is longer than ever, this time, and that some of our felicitations are a bit belated — but none the less sincere for that.

First of all, we must express our pleasure that five Gloucester players won selection for the Australian game, last Tuesday. As I write, the venue, and even the game itself is in doubt, and it's a little late to add good wishes for the match in any case, but it must give all Kingsholm people particular pleasure to see the Gloucester front row selected en bloc, and that Phil Blakeway has been honoured with the Captaincy for the game, thereby leapfrogging the claims of our own Steve Mills, and Bristol's Mike Rafter.

Similarly, we have great pleasure in acknowledging the contribution of five Gloucester forwards to the England trial. It must be many years since so many 'Elver Eaters' appeared in the same trial, and we gather that everyone acquitted himself well.

Particular congratulations must go to Steve Mills, on his elevation to the England side on that occasion, albeit belated, and the fact that Gordon Sargent went along as a reserve is surely compensated by his well-deserved selection for today's Barbarians game against Leicester.

Finally — for the moment — congratulations to John Orwin on being selected for the Combined Services side to play the Australians. With a bit more luck, he might have got greater recognition than that, on one or two occasions lately.

In fact, we must also say 'bad luck' to a whole hatful of Gloucester players who must only just have missed out on one or two representative matches recently. Perhaps their turn will come.

I don't think I have to mention names.

Club Diaries

The Gloucester RFC Diary is now, once again, available from the Club. The fact that it wasn't available in time for Christmas presents has nothing to do with Terry Tandy — or anyone else for that matter — not getting his finger out, it's simply a matter of trying to make the information contained therein as up to date as possible.

The Diary really is great value for money. If you've been into W. H. Smith lately, you'll see that the price — a mere 60p — has got to be the bargain of the year.

—So get yourself one. It's packed with information.

New Year attractions

There's probably no need to remind you that Moseley is here on New Year's Day. We haven't been lucky with the weather for this match recently, but surely, we have earned a break in the frost this year and can you think of a better way to start 1982 than a meeting with our most respected Midlands rivals?

On Saturday, of course, we are away to our old bogeys, London Scottish, but on Saturday week — January 9th, we have the most eagerly-awaited fixture of the season so far — Leicester at Kingsholm. They'll be busting a gut to get their own back for the match at Leicester, and our lads can do with all the support they can get.

Just to complete an excellent 'home run', we have the successful Wasps side here on January 16th. Quite a run-up to the challenge of High Wycombe in the John Player on the 23rd.

And don't forget the United. If you feel like another excellent dose of Rugby on Saturday next, you could come and see them take on Wasps, here at Kingsholm.

So, from the spectator point of view, we have a super start to the New Year. Why not take full advantage of it?

. . . or alternatively

It's not out of the question to make a trip to Twickenham on Saturday January 2nd, to see England — who might well have Gloucester representation — take on Australia. Terry Tandy tells me that he has a few tickets at various prices, for that game, and that he could be persuaded to part with them, if you see him after the match today.

Now, that's an offer that doesn't come along very often. On your marks, get set . . .

Tailpiece

Having been very rude about various sections of the Press, recently, it's only fair that I give credit where it's due. Here's an extract from the 'Daily Telegraph' of November 30th, the day after we took the London Irish unbeaten record, and two days after the County semi Final.

"A performance like this . . . begs the question. Should the entire Gloucester team have been representing their County against Lancashire on the previous day."

Well — he said it — I didn't.

Finally, a belated but none the less sincere message of Seasonal Greetings from all the Officers, Committee and Players to all of you. And that includes, yours very truly . . .

PETER ARNOLD.