



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER V SALE

John Player Cup—Quarter Final

Saturday, 13th March, 1982

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

168

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

GLOUCESTER 13 Cherry & White (1G; 1T; 1PG)

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. M. Preedy
*†	2. S. Mills (Capt.)
*†	3. P. Blakeway
*§	4. S. Boyle
*	5. J. Orwin
§	6. J. Gadd
§	8. M. Teague
	7. M. Longstaff
REPLACEMENTS	
	K. White
	A. Durkin

SALE 6 Blue & White (2PG)

Full Back	
*§	15. S. Lowden
Three Quarters	
*	14. N. Spaven
†	13. T. Bond
*	12. T. Wright
	11. P. Stansfield
Half Backs	
*	10. A. Phillips
†*	9. S. Smith
Forwards	
*	1. T. Simon (Capt.)
*	2. A. Simpson
*	3. M. Higgs
*	4. D. Hicks
*	5. I. McKie
*	6. P. Sherrat
*	8. A. Lawson
*§	7. R. Stevenson
REPLACEMENTS	
	G. Pike
	M. Thomas

Referee: J. A. F. TRIGG (London Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

The Buck Stops Here!

This is it. The sharp end. All the advice, speculation, propaganda and star-gazing is over, and it's all down to the 30 blokes out there on the sacred turf.

It is with no disrespect to our distinguished visitors, that we can say this is just the draw we would have wanted. With Bristol departed — thanks to Slemenpool — and Leicester and Gosforth on a collision course, we couldn't have wished for anything better than a home draw, and that would have been true, whoever came out of the hat a couple of Mondays ago.

At this stage of the Competition, all teams are to be reckoned with, and anyone who saw Sale demolish a good Rosslyn Park side in the previous round, won't need telling that the Cherries have a battle on their hands today.

As everyone will remember, the last time these two sides met in the Cup, Gloucester came in second, after holding a reasonable lead at half time. But that was a long time ago now, and today's teams bear little resemblance to the ones that met on that occasion.

The most recent evidence we have goes back two seasons. On April 19th, 1980, Gloucester beat Sale — on their own patch — by 16-11, with Paul Wood scoring two tries, and Peter Butler adding two penalties and a conversion.

Even so — the Sale side is a different one now, as indeed is Gloucester.

Indeed, today has all the earmarks of a great encounter. Quite apart from Cup considerations, one or two questions will be answered today. Perhaps we shall now see, for example, whether Mills or Simpson has the edge. How will Steve Baker match up to England Captain, Steve Smith? Can the pack which ran the Rosslyn Park eight ragged do the same against the most feared Club pack in the country?

So we have many reasons to welcome Sale today — not least, the fact that we haven't seen them for some time. So it's nice to see you chaps. Have a good game, and the best of luck—so long as you don't actually win!

Whistle stop tour

Before leaving JPC matters, it's intriguing to note that our own Garth Cromwell has the job of controlling the Leicester v. Gosforth encounter. If we win today, he'll be a very useful source of information at some stage. I've heard of spies being sent to watch potential opposition, but I've never heard of the man with the whistle in that position.

Six of the Best!

Even if it does threaten to make a hole in any proposed South African trip, it's good to note that no less than six Gloucester forwards have received Availability Cards for England's American tour. Props Phil Blakeway, Gordon Sargent and Malcolm Preedy, are joined by back-row phenomena Mike Teague and John Gadd, plus of course, Steve Mills.

But talking about flankers, I always feel sorry for Mike Longstaff. Surely he deserves consideration, fully as much as his back-row partners. If you doubt it — ask Exeter!

... and eight who know their Rugby

Among the distinguished visitors here today, are eight who could have gone to any of the Quarter Final matches, but chose Kingsholm.

'Rugby Post', edited by the Venerable St. Nigel, recently ran a competition, the prizes for which were each two tickets for a JPC Quarter Final match of the winner's choice. Four worthy prize winners chose the Gloucester v. Sale match. Greetings, Sirs! (or Madams). Whoever you are, and wherever you come from, we admire your taste.

This is just one small spin-off, which shows the value of John Player's sponsorship. Whatever various grannies in politics and elsewhere may say about tobacco companies getting involved with sport, there's no doubt that John Player have made a greater contribution to the game in the last few years than almost any other organisation. Well—gentlemen from our generous sponsors, there's at least one Rugby crowd—and we've never been slow to give appreciation where it's due—who appreciate your generosity, and hope it will continue indefinitely.

The other Smith

Glad though we are to see Steve Smith here today (his second visit this season. Remember the County semi-final?), I'm afraid he has to share the limelight with another Smith who comes to Kingsholm more regularly. He's Mr. Colin E. Smith, who lives at 12 Doctor Brown's Close, Minchinhampton.

Mr. Smith had his persistence rewarded at the Exeter game, when he bought programme No. 798, and thereby won himself a neat £5. Well done Mr. Smith!

The Twickenham Win

Can't let today go by without offering our sincere congratulations to Phil Blakeway on his part in the great defeat of the Welsh hordes, last Saturday. To my (thoroughly biased) eye, he seemed to have as good a game as he's ever had, when wearing the England shirt.

Certainly, he set up the ruck which led to the first try, and appeared to me to be the stalwart who wrestled the ball out to Carleton for the second one.

And, of course, it would be churlish if we didn't also extend our congratulations to Steve Smith, who had the unenviable job of taking over the Captaincy from the great Bill Beaumont, at very short notice, and ended up with two memorable victories.

Bosom companions

I hear a whisper that Miss Erika Rowe, famous for her 'get-it-off-your-chest' attitude to Rugby, is visiting Gloucester to help open a new local hostelry.

Don't all rush.

Back to normal

After the tumult and the shouting of the John Player, we're back to the normal scheme of things next week. The First Team has a tricky visit to Orrell on Saturday, but you could console yourself with an attractive United game at Kingsholm, when the opposition will be provided by Bridgend Sports, who will no doubt, be trying to go one better than their seniors, who could only draw with Gloucester, on their own pitch.

The following Saturday (March 27th) we shall be welcoming Saracens, and, on the last day of the month, we have our final Welsh visitors of the season, in the ample persons of Abertillery.

Before that, however, United will be entertaining Luctonians, on March 22nd, and are down to visit Berry Hill on the 30th — a local Derby, that must be worth an hour or two of your time.

Tailpiece

This week, I'm really going to stick my neck out. In fact, I can say that there isn't one person on the ground who will agree with what I am about to say.

During one of those 'do you remember when' conversations, I had the idea of nominating my All Time Best Gloucester XV, and found I just couldn't resist the temptation.

Having sought advice from my elders and betters, here's the side I came up with:

Don Rutherford; C. C. ("Kit") Tanner, Freddie Webb, M. A. McCanlis, Arthur Hudson; Tom Millington, Dai Gent; Mike Burton, 'Bumps' Carpenter, George Hastings, Alan Brinn, John Gwilliam, John Watkins, Bob Hodge, Tommy Voyce.

If that doesn't get the arguments going — nothing will. What about Father Dix? Biddy Halford, "Jigger" Dunn, Denis Ibbottson? Phil Blakeway, for that matter?

But before you seek me out with fire in the belly, I would just point out that my side has 124 Caps between them — including 22 for Wales.

PETER ARNOLD.