

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v BATH

Wednesday, 21st April, 1982 Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 pm

1374

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

We expected you sooner!

It's always a pleasure to see Bath here, of course, but this match is even more pleasant to

anticipate than usual.

Tonight's visitors should have been at Kingsholm on December 12th, but fell a victim to the season's first blizzard - a deprivation which was regarded by the Gloucester faithful as equalled only by the loss of our home fixture against Leicester for similar reasons.

We did, however, go to the attractive Bath ground, and were a shade lucky (admittedly with

a weakened team) to come away with a 12-6 win.

Don't be misled, however, into thinking that tonight's game will be a simple end-of-season

run-out. Both sides have too much riding on it for that.

Bath simply have to win tonight, or won't immediately qualify for next season's John Player Cup competition — and it's an indication of some of the anomalies of the situation, when a team of the quality of our West Country neighbours is likely to miss out, while teams that everyone recognises are not really in the same class, will go through.

From the Gloucester point of view, there are other factors to consider. If we win tonight,

the Elver Eaters will become the first English Club to win the 'Daily Mail' Anglo-Welsh Pennant — a consummation devoutly to be wished. There is also the thought that it would

be Gloucester's 40th win of the season, and a new Club record.

And, of course, there is always the ground record to think about.

So there will be no lack of commitment tonight. As always, we expect a hard game from Bath, and we respect the challenge they offer. Somehow, it seems highly appropriate that this crucial stage of the season has come down to a confrontation between ourselves and our favourite West Country opponents.

Have a good evening Bath. It's good to see you - especially after it looked as if you

wouldn't be coming this year.

In the picture

Being engaged elsewhere, I was sorry to miss a very pleasant ceremony which took place in the Club last Saturday. Many Members will have noticed the magnificent new photograph-4' x 3' — which now adorns the wall in the Clubhouse, and which features the formidable likenesses of Messrs. Blakeway, Mills and Preedy.

The picture was enlarged, mounted, and presented to the Club by Gloucestershire Newspapers — the 'Citizen' as far as most people are concerned — and was given a protective Melamine lamination by Denbar.

The General Manager of Gloucestershire Newspapers, Mr. Milson, was courteous enough to make the official presentation, to our President, Canon Mervyn Hughes, himself, with Gloucester's newest England tourist, Malcolm Preedy, together with the 'Citizen's' rugby man, Andrew Wise Rod Leach took the picture, just one in a string of excellent action

shots which his camera has produced, over the years.

We always knew that the 'Citizen' were quick with the news; but perhaps, this time, they actually have foreseen the future. When the picture was published, they couldn't possibly have known that the entire Gloucester front row was destined to tour Canada and the USA with England. Could they just have secured a 'scoop' by capturing the next England front row?

Just one left

Next Saturday, we have the last home game of the season, against our long-established endof-season opponents from Exeter. They will certainly be out to show that the 34-3 beating in this year's John Player didn't really reflect their strength, and in any case, you're sure to want to show your appreciation to the lads for the most memorable season most of us can recall. It will also be your last chance to indicate the level of support the lads can expect at Twickenham, and to give them an appropriate send-off to South Africa.

Don't miss it.

The Agent's always a winner!

Don't forget the offer by Raisden Limited, who are managing our fantastic new lottery, next season. To start with, they are running a pump-priming exercise, in connection with an established lottery and are looking for Agents. So, if you can offer any sort of business premises where a lottery point might be effective, or you are willing to set up a lottery round among friends, relatives, neighbours or workmates, get in touch. It could be worth 10% of your takings, as expenses, and 10% of the £1,000 top prize if one of your punters wins it. Numbers to ring — 021-501 2716 or 0633-842615.

Allez France!

Proframme numero huit-deux-neuf (829 to people who think all foreigners should speak English), was held by M. Gaston Gavoille, last Saturday at the Sale match. Apparently he was staying with friends at Churchdown, and attending his first-ever English Club Rugby Match. Well — he couldn't have chosen a better introduction. And to go away with a free fiver must have made his trip that much more enjoyable. But we still didn't apologise for the result of the England-France game.

Twickenham news

You probably know it all by now — tickets cost £5, £4, £3, £2 from the Office, or from the sports emporia run by Gordon Hudson and Alan Brinn. Alternatively, write to Terry Tandy at 17, Ogbourne Close, Longlevens, including the money and an SAE please.

Note for coach operators. It now costs £15 to park a coach at Twickenham, so make due

allowances when working out your prices etc.

One useful piece of information, if you're thinking of driving up. If you went along to an International, this year, you will have had to obtain a car parking ticket, before you went otherwise you didn't get in.

Terry Tandy tells me that this does not apply to the John Player Final, so that's one hassle

you don't have to worry about.

Taking the strain on the train

We now have more information about the various trains that are going on the John Player safari. The 'Severn Sound Special' will leave at 9.38 from Cheltenham, and arrive back at 20.40. Other timings are Gloucester 10.05, getting back at 20.17; Stonehouse 10.23 (20.04); Stroud, 10.30 (19.58), arriving at Twickenham 12.34, and leaving after the game at

The other trains start from Gloucester at 9.40, getting back at 19.30, and at 10.40, getting

back at 20.35.

British Rail ask me to emphasise that you can't just stroll up and hope to get on a trainit's essential to book in advance. It's also important that you do catch the train you're booked for, and return by the same one. Otherwise, some people will be coming home in luxury, while others will be crammed in like the proverbial sardines. In fact, you could find yourself having to get from Twickenham to Paddington (expensive and not easy), and coming home from there, which would take the gilt from the gingerbread.

One try to come

In the welter of records and recognitions which have come our way this season, one potential milestone has been forgotten a bit, over the last week or two. Mike Teague still needs one try to become the holder of the record for most tries in a season by a forward. Tonight, perhaps?

Tailpiece

Do you realise that we missed out on the 'Daily Mail' Pennant by just one point, last Saturday? According to Terry O'Connor, if Cardiff didn't beat Neath we were home and dry. In the event, they won by just 4 points to 3. Still — I suppose we'd rather win it than have it handed to us.

PETER ARNOLD

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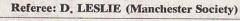
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*+	2.	S. Mills (Capt.)		2.	R. Gay	
*†	3.	P. Blakeway	*	3.	R. Lee	
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110	- 5	K. White	F. 1		J. Roberts	



† International

§ Under 23 International

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