GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

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

GLOUCESTER
v
LYDNEY

Tuesday, 7th September, 1982
Kingsholm, Gloucester
Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

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Referee: R. PARKER (N. Midlands Society)

† International  § Under 23 International  * County
What is it that begins at home?

Usually, the answer would be ‘charity’, but I suspect that there will be precious little of that, asked or given by either side this evening. Local derbies are always electric affairs, but even by those standards, games with Lydney have become occasions for Kingsholm regulars to savour over the last few seasons.

Take last year, Gloucester won the Boxing Day semi-final, at Kingsholm, with a creditable 27-7 scoreline, but the return at Lydney on April 8th was an entirely different kettle of eels.

If you remember, the previous Saturday, Gloucester had reached the John Player Final by beating Coventry at Compton Road. The team they took to Regentsholme wasn’t so very much weaker than the Cup side, yet had to struggle like mad to come away with a 12-11 victory. In fact, (although I would never admit it in public), we were lucky not to get beaten, in my humble opinion.

Lydney look even stronger this season — and it’s about time they received some of the recognition they deserve. All of which adds up to the fact that anyone who thinks they have come along to see a gentle romp at the expense of our neighbours from across the Severn, is likely to have a few home truths spelled out for him.

So tonight is a super occasion to attend, right at the start of a new season. It’s nice to see you so early, Lydney. This evening bids fair to add another red-letter entry to the long and honourable record of games between our two great Clubs.

It’s the season for seasons

Got your season ticket yet? Now is the time, if you are as greedy as the financial benefit from the amazing bargains they represent — and Gloucester folk have never been backward in coming forward, when it comes to saving a penny or two.

Take a Patron’s ticket, for example. It costs £25.00, which means that, assuming you stake a claim in the Centre stand, you only have to attend 13 matches, out of a home total of 26 first-team games, to be in pocket.

Similar figures for other types of Season would be:

Wing Stand: £15.00 — 11 matches.
Centre Stand: £12.00 — 11 matches.
Ground: £8.00 — 11 matches.

Of course, if you can convince the Membership Secretary, David Foyle, that you are an ex-Player, a Senior Citizen, or a Scholar — I believe you can buy theatrical make-up from Boots — then the savings are even greater, Centre Stand costs £12.00, Wing, £8.00 and Ground, £6.00.

To make matters even easier for you, David will be hazardizing his alcohol intake by attending at the Office for a full hour, before and after all home matches, for the sole purpose of dealing with such negotiations.

Incidentally, it’s worth pointing out that for everyone except Scholars, under 17, Membership carries with it free membership of the Social Club, just so long as you obtain the necessary membership card, available in the Bar. And if you don’t get one, you could have trouble getting into the licensed bit, after some of the more heavily attended games.

So count out your pennies now.

Time is running out

You usually expect to read remarks like that at the end of the season, rather than at the beginning, but it seems that the RFU wants international ticket applications earlier each year. I’m told they don’t, but it just seems that way.

This year, the crucial date is October 1st, which means that your applications have to be with the Club by September 25th.

Application forms are available now, and you could get one by seeing Terry Tandy or David Foyle in the Office after the game — or you could send your remittance, together with name, address, membership number and the proverbial SAE to David Foyle, ‘Teviotdale’, Brookfield Road, Churchdown. (Please note that there is also a Brookfield Road in Hucclecote, so the ‘Churchdown’ is important).
Prices, this year, are as follows:

East and West Stands, Wings and Back Rows — £9.20.
South Stand Upper — £9.20.
South Stand Lower and North Stand — £7.20.
East Open Stand Centre — £7.20. Wings — £5.70.
Ring Seats, East and West Centre — £5.70.
East and West Wings and North and South Ring Seats — £4.70.
West Enclosure (standing) — £4.70.
Ground — £2.70.

Allocations being what they are, it would be to your advantage if you indicated what, if any, alternatives would be acceptable to you.

And — of course — it's a cash transaction only. No money with application — no tickets.

Relevant dates are France on January 15th, Scotland on March 5th.

**Bristol next**

Our next first team game at home is Bristol on September 25th, and you'll certainly want to see the meeting between 'Rugby World's' version of the Team of the Year, 1981-82 and the side we all know really did have that title.

However, for the energetic supporter, neither Coventry on Saturday next, or Pontypool on September 18th are too far away to be prohibitive — and I can say from personal experience, that both those trips are well worth undertaking, in terms of excellent facilities, and cheerful welcomes.

For the stay-at-homes, the United have some attractive fixtures meanwhile. Next Saturday they take on Coventry, and on the 18th, the visitors will be Pontypool, both of which are likely to test our claims to have the strongest second string in the Country.

For the sake of completeness, you might also like to make a note that our lively and attractive Colts team make their season's début (at home, at any rate), on October 6th, when they play Brixham, and on October 13th, when the opposition will be Nuneaton.

**The advertising opportunity of the year**

The whole year, as a matter of fact. It isn't often that you can take advantage of an advertising medium which will be current for an entire 12 months, yet not pay any more for the publicity your company, product or service will get, than if you were buying the medium in question for your own use.

Which sounds complicated, but isn't really. The point is that the Club is producing a rather special calendar, for next year. It contains 12 superb action pictures of the Lads in action — for which we owe heartfelt thanks to the 'Citizen' — and costs a miserly £1.50 per copy, Great Christmas present.

For exactly the same price, you could have your own advertising message included — which has to be a bargain.

See Peter Denham, who probably won't be far away from the Bar, after the game.

**Tailpiece**

I was in Ghent for the whole five days, so I know.

Gloucester's 'Jeux sans Frontieres' team was undoubtedly the hit of the whole affair, proving super ambassadors for the old City, and indeed, for Great Britain, all the time they were there.

And, undoubtedly, the superstar was our own Vivian Woolley, now unhappily departed to skipper Gloucester Old Boys.

As an indication of the impact he made, when I first met the Burgomaster of Ghent, a day or two before the games, his first comment to me was, "And how is Monsieur Veev?"

Fame indeed.

PETER ARNOLD.