



# EBBW VALE

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Season 1982-83

Eugene Cross Park



WEDNESDAY, 13th OCTOBER 1982 KICK OFF 7.00 p.m.

## EBBW VALE v GLOUCESTER

Match ball sponsored by 'The Red Lion', Llangynider.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p



# WELSH BITTER.

## EBBW VALE

Wayne Bow	15
Brian Thomas	14
Gary Lawrence	13
Steve Flynn ( <i>Capt</i> )	12
Des Parry	11
Jeff Stephenson	10
Nigel Osborne	9
Colin Williams	1
Ian Watkins	2
Malcolm Sibthorpe	3
Elwyn Jones	4
David Bidgood	5
Phil Gardener	6
Clive Burgess	7
Gareth Davies	8

## GLOUCESTER

Paul Ford
Richard Mogg
Paul Taylor
Clive Dyke
Nick Price
Les Jones
Steve Baker
Malcolm Preedy
Kevin White
Bob Phillips
Steve Boyle
John Brain
Gerry Hurliman
Paul Wood
Mike Teague

*Replacements:*  
Glyn Manns, Chris O'Donague

Referee Mr W. D. Bevan (Clydach)

Ebbw Vale Kit supplied by — Umbro International Limited

# Never forget your Welsh.



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## CLUB NOTES...

Our very welcome visitors, Gloucester, are having, unusually for them, an in and out start to the season. Last week they were heavily defeated by Pontypool, yet on Saturday they won well at home to the Harlequins (16-9) despite being well under strength due to the county game against Yorkshire. Reports indicate that Boyle and Orwin of Gloucester were outstanding and dominated the line-out and gave the backs a glut of good possession which they failed to put to good use. This has been the hallmark of the Gloucester side for quite a few seasons, but the backs looked a good outfit when we were at Gloucester last year. A couple of the Gloucester team will be missing tonight as they have been selected for the England XV to play on Saturday. If the performance of Gloucester United is any yardstick they have plenty of strength in depth for one of the better games seen last season was the Athletic game at Gloucester which was full of good football from both sides.

For our own part, an excellent win at Newport by 22 pts to 11 pts was followed by a dismal performance at Oxford when we lost by 28 pts to 13 pts. Why the difference? The performance at Newport, despite the shortage of some key players, was one to enthuse about. The commitment of every player to the cause was 100%. Some slight mistakes were made which gave Newport some points, but the overall impression was that we wanted to win the game more than did Newport. Any mistake by the Newport team was pounced on and punished. At Oxford, the University wanted to win more than we did. Late withdrawal of a key member of the team — the scrum-half — did not help the enthusiasm of the others. With the inability to replace this position with another specialist scrum-half was nothing short of disastrous. This situation must not happen again. It has been known all season that this position has not been adequately covered by a player of the requisite ability. Stringent efforts must be made to recruit a good player for this most vital of positions — not to act simply as an understudy — but a player good enough to play against all and sundry. To play a centre at scrum half and a half fit player at centre certainly does wonders for the confidence of the outside-half!!!

One item of sad news is the fact that Clive Burgess is going to Italy to work and will be playing rugby for the Italian Club Brascia. With the economic situation in the area being so precarious the offer of employment with a home firm is too good to turn down. Clive will be leaving around the 20th October. It is hoped, indeed anticipated, that Clive will play his last game for Ebbw Vale tonight. If this is so, then our supporters will give him a rousing send off and, we hope, a victory from his fellow players. Clive has been an outstanding player for Ebbw Vale and Wales for many seasons. He will be greatly missed by both club and country though he assures me that his firm will give him the necessary time for squad sessions etc. Should his ability be required by Wales. One little disappointment is the fact that Clive would never accept the Captaincy of the club, and we tried, and tried and tried. Bon voyage, Budge — there'll always be a welcome for you in Ebbw Vale.

**COVER PIC:** Jeff Stephenson passing perfectly against Pontypool last month.  
The scoreboard finally read 12-10 to Ebbw Vale.

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## YOU RANG SIR?

The Patron of our club resides in Gloucestershire in a rather nice cottage called Badminton House. His Grace The Duke of Beaufort still rides to hounds in much the same spirit as our Athletic Match Secretary, John Dentus, rides to work on his bike. The Duke entertained members of the Club in Centenary year and we did not see a butler anywhere. Just a lot of horses and some very nice people.

There is still a butler at Arundel where the Duke of Norfolk arranges first class cricket matches. During one local game the Duke's butler substituted for an absentee umpire. A bowler had the temerity to appeal for l.b.w. against the Duke. All eye-brows were lifted, arched, and raised for the butler was the umpire carrying the responsibility. "Well, is he out?" asked the bowler. A pause and then the butler lifted his eyes to heaven and also his arm to reply diplomatically, "His Grace is not in." Nice one.

His job was not in jeopardy for butlers are rare as our visitors will confirm. Their most noble servant and super butler for ten years has just retired and while Gloucester will miss him, opponents will not. Aged 31, Peter Butler, has left the game. He played twice for England, against Australia in 1975 and France in 1976. In ten years he scored more than 3500 points and was the first player to total 1000 points in consecutive seasons. He scored 438 in 1972-3 and 574, a British record, in 1973-74. Two years later he scored all Gloucestershire's 24 points which beat Middlesex in the English County Championship.

Peter's successor in the Gloucester side is Paul Ford, son of Peter Ford, now Fixture Secretary and once a very fine and durable forward. When Gloucester beat Newport 14-3 in October 1963, Peter Ford did so well he was picked for the first England trial. He was in his 12th year with Gloucester and was 31 years of age. England selectors approved of experience for they also chose hooker Sam Hodgson and he was 35! Peter was uncapped at that time but played four times for England in 1964.

He did well for Western Counties against the 1963-4 All-Blacks and was a contemporary of Gloucester's great hooker and character, Mike Nicholls. A year later Mike Burton played his first game for Gloucester. Since then he has played for England and the Lions and now writes revealing yarns as well as arranging tours.

It's surprising who you meet on those tours. On the first — and still hazy — afternoon of our tour in Canada we met officials of the England party who were due to meet Canada East in Toronto. One was the coaching King of English rugby, Don Rutherford another in a long line of great Gloucester full backs. He played fourteen times for England from 1960-1967 and is a product of St. Lukes College, Exeter. Another ex-Lukes boy is our coach Chris Padfield. That proves useful on trips to Torquay, an old stamping ground for St. Lukes's men with a week-end pass. It's very handy to have an old hand who knows where the best art galleries, cinemas and milk bars are.

If Peter Butler often "did" us when we met Gloucester with his kicking so did Don Rutherford. He captained Gloucester when we played there in October 1967. An experimental law prohibiting direct kicking to touch outside the then 25 yard line was being tried at the time. Nick Foice got Gloucester's try while we scored two by David Finch and winger Gareth Davies. Barry Edwards converted one but Don Rutherford landed three penalty goals and we lost 12-8. He also hit the posts with two shots at penalty goals!

Last season Gloucester played 48 games, won 41, drew 4 and only lost three. They amassed 1045 points and conceded 338. They reached the John Player Cup Final but had to share the trophy with Moseley after a 12-12 draw in extra time. predictably Gloucester's points came via their full back, Paul Ford, who had been preferred to Peter Butler for the final.

There may be other interests in the City of Gloucester but we do not know them. Rugby football is the bread, butter, steak and beer for the local manhood. There are also enthusiastic lady supporters of the Cherry and Whites who drive their side on. We live in neighbouring counties, each with great rugby traditions and it's quite easy to travel to each other's grounds.

Two famous Gloucester forwards who travelled to our ground for special matches are well remembered for their interest and sporting spirit. In September 1958, George Hastings, thirteen times an England prop, played for the Ken Jones XV when we opened our bottom stand. A dozen years later we held a match in memory of Wilf Hunt who died when Secretary of the Club after a distinguished playing career for Ebbw Vale. Mike Burton, 17 caps, came down and played his part in a great game. Hastings and Burton may be remembered for their internationals but we have affection for them in an equally important sphere of the game.

Don Rutherford had Gloucester prop Phil Blakeway with him in Canada and we saw him play against Canada East who were scalped 52-3 in Toronto. We did not see any Indians on our travels but there must have been one hiding in our hotel. Whoever it was scalped our baggageman Glyn Tarr who literally went topless for the rest of the trip. Glyn even spent six bucks on a haircut, his first for years. He's back to "normal" now and keeps calm, even when Gloucester place-kickers aim at our posts.

That takes some sticking, for he's the one man who gets his hair off easily.

R.E.L.

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