



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v **SOUTH WALES POLICE**

Wednesday, 24th November, 1982

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

0309

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Full Back | |
| 15. | G. Thomas |
| Three Quarters | |
| * 14. | P. Pritchard |
| * 13. | S. Parsloe |
| 12. | C. O'Donague |
| *§ 11. | R. Mogg |
| Half Backs | |
| * 10. | D. Pointon |
| 9. | W. Hall |
| Forwards | |
| *§ 1. | M. Preedy |
| *† 2. | S. Mills (Capt.) |
| * 3. | R. Pascall |
| *§ 4. | S. Boyle |
| 5. | J. Brain |
| 6. | J. Bennett |
| * 7. | P. Wood |
| § 8. | M. Teague |
| REPLACEMENTS | |
| T. Smith | |
| K. White | |

SOUTH WALES POLICE

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Full Back | |
| 15. | J. John |
| Three Quarters | |
| 14. | M. Brinkworth |
| 13. | R. Donovan |
| 12. | J. Davies |
| 11. | C. Barber |
| Half Backs | |
| 10. | B. Bowen |
| 9. | P. Noble (Capt.) |
| Forwards | |
| 1. | D. Goodman |
| 2. | P. Richards |
| 3. | M. Curtis |
| 4. | D. Darch |
| 5. | S. Sutton |
| 6. | D. Price |
| 7. | P. Davies |
| 8. | B. McAllister |
| REPLACEMENTS | |
| C. Patterson | |
| S. Balzano | |

Referee: H. JONES (Somerset Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE

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Telephone 32088 and 34920

The joke wears thin

Tonight's visitors must be heartily sick, by now, of jokes of the 'Cummerlongerme' and 'Evening all!' variety. Indeed, I have been as guilty as anyone, in previous programmes, of that offence. (See? There I go again!). Nowadays, South Wales Police are a force to be reckoned with, and need to be taken seriously, or they're likely to make you pay for your irreverence on the field.

The fact is, that the club has made quite phenomenal strides since its foundation, as recently as 1969. Yet the evidence was always there, for anyone who has eyes to see.

To start with, the very address of their home ground gives one a clue. Any first-class side who plays at Bridgend should set alarm bells ringing. Secondly, any team which is less than 25 years old, yet can produce, in Ian Hall a player with 8 caps, can't be laughed off. Admittedly, Ian Hall is remembered as an Aberavon player, but the fact is that he did play for South Wales Police, so the principle is sound.

Finally, to be fit, not to be trifled with, and probably inordinately large are normal qualifications for a policeman — and they're not mean recommendations for a rugby player, either.

Two years ago, at Kingsholm, tonight's visitors went down by 19 points to 6. If the result approaches that, this season, the boys will have done very well.

All of which adds up to a very welcome set of visitors. They are only the third Welsh side to come here this season (behind Swansea and Glamorgan Wanderers), so they're doubly welcome on that account.

Glad to see you, Officers. Hope you have a pleasant evening.

Surrey on Saturday

At the time of writing, the County team for the semi-final against Surrey at Bristol next Saturday, hasn't been announced, but, to me, there doesn't seem much point in making many changes to a side which beat Lancashire. Hearty congratulations, anyway, to all 'Elver Eaters' who make the side, and commiserations to those stalwarts (if any) who selectors, in their wisdom, see fit to leave out at this late stage.

David Foyle tells me that any tickets which are left will be on sale tonight, at £3.00 for a stand ticket — oddly enough, the same price as Lancashire charged in the previous round. —It's ironic that Gloucestershire seem to have had less difficulty in qualifying against the cream of the County crop, than they often did against our own, old South West division — yet we had the worst of all possible worlds by having to play the two toughest fixtures — Lancashire and Yorkshire — away from home.

On paper, Saturday's mission looks easier than either of those, but you can't write off any team which has got this far, and you may well remember that, exactly ten years ago, Surrey met Gloucestershire right here, in the Final, and won 14 - 3.

Which would be worth bearing in mind.

Welcome Nigel!

Our old friend Nigel Starmer Smith may well be taking up naturalisation papers, we hear. He might as well. Not only is 'Rugby Special' covering the County match next Saturday, but arrangements are being finalised for Gloucester v. Moseley to be the subject of the programme on December 4th.

Perhaps he's got an Old Boys Reunion at Barnwood C. of E. School.

The rest is silence . . .

The trouble about advanced technology is that it is inclined to develop gremlins — and this happened last Saturday.

You probably noticed that there were no pre-match announcements, and that the loud-speakers remained ominously mute at half time too.

The reason was not that Terry Tandy had gone off in a huff, or that he was offended or struck dumb by the fact that there were no team changes to announce. It was simply that the mighty megawatt transmitters of Radio Kingsholm had developed a fault.

Perhaps an elf, destined for the players' lunch, had crept into the machinery and expired. Hope it's all put right by tonight, anyway.

Nearly December

Terrible thought, isn't it? Nevertheless, December 1st arrives next Wednesday, and brings the formidable Leicester side with it. It hardly needs me to give you a hard sell on the advantages of coming to that game.

Or, for that matter, for the game on the following Saturday, December 4th, which is when, as already mentioned, Moseley descend on us. After the two clubs last meeting, at Twickenham at the John Player Final, that is surely a prospect to be savoured.

Incidentally, both of those games will be sponsored by our benefactors from Duck, Son and Pinker, which must be a sponsorship double to be admired, especially as it looks as if the latter match will be televised.

Moving right along, as they say, on Wednesday December 8th we are expecting a visit from Loughborough Colleges — always worth watching, with their blend of fitness and enterprise.

Ten days later, our visitors will be Coventry, and that game needs no recommendation from me, either. Which brings us to the Christmas games — worth mentioning, at this stage, so you know on which dates you must try and dissuade Great Aunt Elsie from descending on you (unless she can play prop forward, of course).

It's a delight to see that Old Merchant Taylors are returning to their traditional Boxing Day spot (December 27th, this year), to help celebrate their Centenary, I believe. Some of us could find it in our hearts to hope that the tradition could now be restored.

Finally, we have Newport on December 29th, and there's a point or two to prove there.

During December, the United are only scheduled to play one game at home — Bath on December 11th.

So there's plenty to brighten the dark days of December. Hope to see you.

Ladies Section

It isn't often I get called upon to write a piece specifically for the ladies, but this I am asked to do, tonight.

The fact is, girls, that the usual toilet facilities on the stand side of the ground, are now out of action, and will be until the magnificent new facilities under the stand are completed.

We haven't left you high and dry, if you'll pardon the expression. There is still a Ladies on the dressing room side, and, of course, the Clubhouse is amply supplied in this respect. Admittedly, this means that you will have to leave the ground, but if the need arises during the game, you'll find the gatekeepers will co-operate.

Sorry if you've been in-convenienced. (Ouch!).

One thought. Knowing the time ladies seem to spend in that particular facility, if anyone brings his wife along, the toilets in the Clubhouse will probably give time for an extra pint.

Is that what's known as 'time off in loo'?

Tailpiece

I discover that today is the 123rd anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's 'Origin of Species', which propounded the theory of evolution, and the fact that we are all descended from the apes.

There was a storm of disbelief, at the time, of course. The objectors obviously hadn't seen some of the packs we get around here, these days.

PETER ARNOLD.