



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

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GLOUCESTER

v

LEICESTER

MATCH SPONSORS TODAY

DUCK, SON & PINKER

52 - 56 Southgate Street, Gloucester

Wednesday, 1st December, 1982

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

812

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back	
15.	G. Thomas
Three Quarters	
* 14.	P. Pritchard
13.	C. Dyke
* 12.	P. Taylor
* 11.	N. Price
Half Backs	
10.	M. Hamlin
9.	W. Hall
Forwards	
*§ 1.	M. Preedy
*† 2.	S. Mills (Capt.)
* 3.	R. Pascall
§ 4.	J. Brain
* 5.	J. Orwin
6.	J. Bennett
* 7.	P. Wood
* 8.	A. Turton

REPLACEMENTS

S. Parsloe *
G. Mann

LEICESTER

Full Back	
† O.	W. H. Hare
Three Quarters	
N.	B. Evans
† M.	P. W. Dodge
† L.	C. R. Woodward
K.	R. C. Barnwell
Half Backs	
† J.	L. Cusworth (Capt.)
I.	S. Kenny
Forwards	
A.	M. Whitcombe
† B.	P. J. Wheeler
C.	S. Redfern
D.	N. Gillingham
E.	T. Roberts
F.	N. Jackson
G.	D. Richards
H.	R. Tebbutt

REPLACEMENTS

V. Afflick
D. Black

Referee: L. PRIDEAUX (N. Midlands Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
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The tale of the Tigers

Very occasionally, this particular section of programme scribble appears to be superfluous, and this is one of those occasions. Surely, no one in Gloucester, who is even remotely interested in rugby, can be unfamiliar with the continuing saga of matches between Leicester and Gloucester over the past couple of seasons.

Just in case, however, you have been on safari in Outer Mongolia ever since November 1st 1980, I'd better give you a swift recap.

At that time, there was no doubt as to who were England's leading Club — and that's the only time you've ever heard me admit that anyone other than Gloucester can claim that. The 'Tigers' had swept all before them, and had taken out a permanent lease on the John Player Cup.

Gloucester, in something of a reorganisation phase, promised much, but the 1981/2 palmy days were still in the future. Then, on November 1st, Leicester came here and had to go home ruefully considering a 31-4 scoreline which included six tries. And, as I remember it, only Peter Wheeler was absent from the superb Leicester side of those days.

The next thrilling installment happened at Leicester on January 10th 1981, when the 'Tigers' had an ample revenge by beating us 14-9, in a dour struggle.

Last season, the roles were reversed, when Gloucester shaded the result at Aylestone Road in a match where the 'Cherries' pack simply wouldn't let the Leicester backs play with the ball.

So the scene was set for the show-down. Only it never happened, because the show-down became a snow-down, with Kingsholm looking like something from Scott of the Antarctic, during last season's appalling spell of December and January weather.

We can't really claim that tonight's game has the same charisma, but it is still one of the most eagerly awaited in the whole fixture list. I haven't seen either team at the time of writing, but injuries and representative calls might make all the difference. Certainly, Leicester will be looking to be the first English team to win here this season. Gloucester will be trying all they can to beat the 'Tigers', because they are still the most cherished scalp in English rugby.

So, Leicester have never been more welcome. It should be a game and a half.

To B. or not to B.?

... well, that isn't really the question. While we could have wished that the Selectors had chosen any week other than this one to pick four Gloucester forwards (three players and a replacement) to represent England B against their Irish Counterparts, we wouldn't want Steve Boyle, Mike Teague, John Gadd and Malcolm Preedy to think that we are anything but delighted at their selection, or that we wish them anything less than astonishing good luck.

It will be the surprise of the season if 'Gaddy' doesn't get his first full cap this year, Mike Teague came within a hair's breadth last year, Malcolm Preedy is surely a name for the future, and it's great to see Steve Boyle back in contention, especially now that his old stumbling block, Bill Beaumont, is, sadly, no longer with us.

So we're right behind you, chaps. Hope you knock the Selectors' eyes out.

Dai Walter

To so many of us he was Gloucestershire rugby. Now, after illness, Dai Walter has passed on.

No one, over the years, has been more critical of the County, in terms of selection and other matters than I have been, but it's easy to criticise from a distance, and extremely difficult actually to do the job when it's your lot to do so. Any man who can hold down the job of County Secretary for upwards of two decades — years which have seen Gloucestershire go through the most successful period in even our County's memorable history — must be a man to admire, and to be grateful for.

Gloucestershire — and the rugby world — will be the poorer without Dai Walter, and we salute him as a great administrator, a fine player, and a gentleman. To his family, all of us at Kingsholm send our heartfelt sympathy.

The Music Men again

Our sincere and warm thanks are due — yet again — to Duck, Son and Pinker, who have scored a notable double by securing the sponsorship of both this week's matches — Leicester and Moseley can't be bad, from their point of view.

With all the tumult and shouting about our new superstore, let's not forget that they don't sell quite everything, and the array of musical instruments, audio and video gear and the rest to be seen at Southgate Street, takes a bit of beating. So when you're thinking about Christmas presents, remember our sponsors — they deserve all the custom we can give them.

Incidentally, Duck, Son and Pinker have quite an array of interesting guests, this evening — including Air Commodore Tony Gray, a highly distinguished member of the refereeing fraternity, Sgt. Billy Steele, who you will remember playing on the wing for Scotland, and Cllr. Mike Pullon, Chairman of the City Leisure Committee. Mike, as it happens, is originally a Leicester man, which should mean that both sides will expect him to buy the drinks.

Season of Goodwill

Of course, it can't seem much like that to a full-back who has the entire Gloucester pack bearing down on him, but just the same, Christmas games do have a certain something about them, and as we have only one match at home before they start in earnest, perhaps we ought to remind you about them now.

Saturday's game against Moseley doesn't need any introduction, but the next game after that is worth consideration too. It's our old friends from Loughborough Colleges, who can always be relied upon to run hard, and give 100 per cent. That's a week tonight.

After that, Coventry visits us on the 18th, and the 'Cov' game is one no one ever wants to miss, even if your wife thinks you're out Christmas shopping at the time.

Official Boxing Day — Monday 27th sees a match for people who like the traditions of the game. Old Merchant Tailors, who for so long were our Boxing Day match, make a very happy return, as part of their Centenary celebrations. Definitely an occasion for the 'do you remember when' brigade.

Two days later, Wednesday 29th, we really get down to hard business. The visitors are Newport, and we have a point or two to prove there. And we finish off the festive season with London Scottish on January 1st, which could hardly be more appropriate.

Plenty there to sing carols about. See you same time, same place.

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.

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

Did you notice that the Gloucestershire and Surrey match was played 'at Kingsholm' in front of the most partisan crowd in the country? No? Neither did I. One chap did apparently — Terry O'Connor of the 'Daily Mail'. Who else?

PETER ARNOLD.