



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v COVENTRY

Saturday, 18th December, 1982

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

0544

• RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS
 • INDIVIDUAL DISCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS

• Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

54 Barton Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back
 15. P. Ford

Three Quarters
 14. N. Coyne
 * 13. S. Parsloe
 12. C. O'Donoghue
 * 11. N. Price

Half Backs
 * 10. L. Jones (Capt.)
 9. W. Hall

Forwards
 1. R. Phillips
 2. K. White
 * 3. R. Pascall
 § 4. J. Brain
 † 5. J. Fidler
 6. J. Bennett
 * 7. P. Wood
 *† 8. J. Watkins

REPLACEMENTS

G. Thomas
 I. Roberts

COVENTRY

Full Back
 *† 15. P. Rossborough

Three Quarters
 * 14. S. Maisey
 * 13. D. Foulkes
 12. J. Cooke
 11. C. Royle

Half Backs
 * 10. H. Bevan
 * 9. S. Thomas

Forwards
 1. M. Hobley
 * 2. S. Brain
 * 3. S. Wilkes
 * 4. B. Kidner
 * 5. R. Fardoe
 * 6. P. Thomas
 * 7. R. Sadler
 * 8. G. Robbins

REPLACEMENTS

R. West
 R. Freemantle

Referee: G. CRAWFORD (London Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE

(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

The 5-ton team

I hasten to explain that the heading doesn't refer to any excessive avoirdupois in the Coventry pack, but to the fact they have, in their defeat of Liverpool last week, become the first premier English club to have scored 500 points this season. In fact, our very esteemed visitors can lay claim to being one of our most successful sides, this season, and are certainly having their best campaign for some years.

All of which adds spice to an annual occasion which we always value, and which seems to herald Christmas — the season of Spices, after all — more and more each year.

Regulars won't need reminding of the record of matches between our two sides, over the years. Last season, we beat them 21 - 15 here at Kingsholm, but the return match, on December 19th, at Coundon Road, fell victim to that pre-Christmas blizzard. You'll also recall that early this season we narrowly lost away from home (10-12), but a lot of beer has passed over the bar since then.

However, there's no doubt that the most fond memories we have of Coventry has been the John Player encounters. There was that original knee-trembler in 1972, then a narrow victory a few years ago, thanks to a Russell drop goal with the last kick of the match. And then, last season, we shaded the game again.

One thing to remember is that, in spite of quite justifiable disappointment, the welcome and the hospitality we have received, on those occasions, at Coundon Road, has never been short of epic. This close to Christmas, and with considerable affection, we ought to make good and sure that we return the compliment with interest. As I'm sure we will.

To Coventry, let's just say that Christmas starts here. We hope you have an enjoyable trip, on and off the field, and we hope that your success continues on through the New Year.

Just so as you don't take that last remark too seriously when you're playing Gloucester!

Re-cap

I've already given plenty of notice about the holiday games, but this is the last chance I shall have to do so, so let's have a re-cap, so that you will know when to invite the neighbours in for drinks, and when to spread the rumour that you're visiting relations in Ni jni-Novgorod.

First of all, on Boxing Day — Monday 27th — we have the very welcome return of Old Merchant Tailors. Most people will remember when OMT used to be our traditional Boxing Day game, and were sorry when — the London club feeling they really were a bit out of their class — that fixture ceased. This is their Centenary season, and we're delighted to be able to help them celebrate a momentous year.

Then, on the 29th we have Newport, which can hardly be called a Festival Game at any time, and they're having quite a reasonable season, this year.

On January 1st we have a visit from London Scottish, which seems entirely appropriate on the day after Hogmanay. I am reminded that one of the better games, in my estimation, was one year when the match ended in a 0-0 draw, which goes to prove that there's more to rugby than scoring points.

Anyway, there's plenty to get your teeth into. If they haven't been blunted by the tanners in the Christmas pud.

Patrons for Leicester

One of the more memorable Patrons' trips of recent years has been last season's visit to Leicester. Emboldened by the success of that venture, 'Amiable Andy' Mitchell intends to run another one, as exactly similar to last year's effort as he can.

The cost will be a derisory £3.50, and the date is Saturday, January 8th. Highly recommended — see Andy in the Club, after the game.

Calendars and things

The new club calendar is on sale, in the Clubhouse, behind the bar, and costs a mere £1.50. Bearing in mind that you're sure to need a calendar, somewhere along the line, that they make super Christmas presents, for those who like leaving such things until the last minute, and that calendars aren't cheap to buy anywhere else, you really ought to take a gander at them.

The photographs — some of the best action rugby pictures I've ever seen — are worth far more than the asking price, on their own. Without our friends from the 'Citizen' we couldn't have done it, and we thank them for it.

We ought also thank Peter Denham for the considerable effort and expertise he put into the production of these most attractive items. He really spent a lot of time on it, in a period when (as we happen to know) he had plenty of other things to think about.

On the same subject, I don't know whether there will be any club Christmas cards left by the time you read this, but if so, they're just the thing to fill that gap which always arises when you receive Christmas Greetings from someone you forgot, or who you never intended to send cards to.

And finally, Club ties make very acceptable gifts, and they're always on sale in the clubhouse.

Anyone want to win some money?

Andy Mitchell tells me that anyone who thinks he's missed out on this year's 250 Club has another chance. There are just a few numbers to be had, for various reasons, and Andy would like to have a full house to start the New Year with.

And, if you're as hard up as I usually am, after Christmas, you won't want to miss out on a chance to win some cash to boost your hard-pressed overdraft.

John Player

The match against London Welsh bids fair to go down in Kingsholm folklore. Certainly, their visit in the John Player on January 22nd will rouse many a memory of the last time we met in the semi-final of the first year of the competition. (All right — I know it wasn't strictly the 'John Player', then, but who's quibbling?).

Just to remind you that the rules of the competition make it an 'all pay' occasion, and that stand tickets will be available before very long. Or you could pay at the gate, for the Ground. But I've a feeling you'll have to start queuing early.

County Final

So the Final's going to Bristol. Perhaps the mud will slow up the speedy Yorkshire backs.

Tailpiece

Obviously, I must give heartiest Christmas Greetings to the Players, the helpers and everyone who makes Kingsholm the lifetime experience that it is. And I do, but as this is the third time I've given that message, perhaps I could be allowed to pass on my own personal Christmas Greetings list.

To Peter Gould, for convincing us that Scotch always comes in rose hip syrup bottles

And to Cliff Harris for not drinking it all before it gets along the line to me.

To the bar staff for selling beer, and then closing the bar half an hour before kick-off, so that we can wait until half-time before letting it all out again.

To Dick Smith, for producing a chip off the old block, and to Jim Bennett for producing an entirely new block.

To Lawrence Hull for not blinding us with his Harlequins tie on every conceivable occasion.

And to Mike Burton for proving that those little yellow lines on boots are not there to stop motorists parking on your foot.

Have a great Christmas, everyone. See you on Boxing Day.

PETER ARNOLD.