



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v OLD MERCHANT TAILORS

Monday, 27th December, 1982

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

440

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	G. Thomas
	Three Quarters
*§	14. R. Mogg
	13. C. O'Donoghue
*	12. P. Taylor
	11. C. Boon
	Half Backs
	10. M. Hamlin
§	9. S. Baker
	Forwards
*§	1. M. Preedy
*†	2. S. Mills (Capt.)
	3. R. Phillips
	4. N. Scrivens
§	5. J. Brain
*§	6. J. Gadd
	7. I. Smith
	8. J. Woodhouse

REPLACEMENTS

P. Williams
D. Spencer

OLD MERCHANT TAILORS

	Full Back	<i>N. Mills</i>
15.	N. Mills	
	Three Quarters	
14.	A. Smart	<i>Rob. Elks</i>
13.	R. Elks	<i>Rob. Elks</i>
12.	N. Smith	<i>Rob. Elks</i>
11.	A. Grose	<i>Rob. Elks</i>
	Half Backs	
10.	P. Coackley	<i>Paul Coackley</i>
9.	M. Dimonaco	<i>M. Dimonaco</i>
	Forwards	
1.	R. Thackery	<i>R. Thackery</i>
2.	S. Jenkins	<i>S. Jenkins</i>
3.	C. Pollard (Capt.)	<i>C. Pollard</i>
4.	R. Brooman	<i>R. Brooman</i>
5.	P. Rossiter	<i>P. Rossiter</i>
6.	A. Jenkins	<i>A. Jenkins</i>
7.	M. Crook	<i>M. Crook</i>
8.	C. Jackson	<i>C. Jackson</i>

REPLACEMENTS

P. Davenport
C. Hardcastle

Referee: G. CROMWELL (Gloshire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
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Getting the juices flowing

Let's face it; if you're anything like me, it is a bit of an effort to rouse yourself from the post-Yuletide stupor, and get along to Kingsholm on Boxing Day. The cold pudding seems to weigh heavily on the digestion, and there is a certain heaviness around the eyelids, occasioned partially by late nights, and, in some measure by the residual effects of an alcohol intake which is unusual, both by virtue of its quantity, and by the fact that you tend to absorb libations which are unaccustomed by their very nature. There are few more pitiable sights than a devout and practicing beer drinker, who has been seduced into the belief that he can undertake the consumption of fine old crusted port in the same quantities.

Having made the effort, however, there is nothing more calculated to get the juices flowing than watching a game of rugby. Which prompts the thought that the thirty blokes out there in the middle have simply not been able to celebrate as heartily as you have.

So spare a thought for them — and of course, the referee, linesmen and replacements have the same disadvantage. Thanks chaps! We appreciate the sacrifice you have made on our behalf.

Happy New Century!

Today is a momentous occasion for both sides. For Old Merchant Tailors, because the game is a milestone in their Centenary celebrations, and for us, simply because OMT are back.

You don't have to be a very ancient supporter to remember the time when Boxing Day was always brightened by the annual visit from today's opponents. Slightly older Kingsholm hands will recall the times when OMT could give the traditionally depleted Gloucester Boxing Day side all that they could handle. If, like me, you're well and truly into the sere and yellow, you will recall Old Merchant Tailors coming here with the odd International in their ranks.

Personally, I always feel slightly proud of the fact that the cessation of fixtures didn't happen at the instigation of the Gloucester club. If my memory is accurate, I think that OMT decided that enough was enough when they were on the wrong end of an 80-point score line.

Let's not dwell on that, however. It's always great when you see old friends who haven't been around for some years, and for today's visitors to pay us the compliment of wanting to come here, on this particular day, as part of their Centenary, says something about the game of rugby football, and the spirit in which it is played.

We should also, I think, say thanks to Lydney, who inherited the Boxing Day fixture, for agreeing to step aside on this occasion.

You're extremely welcome, OMT. We hope your Centenary year is proving to be memorable on the field, and to reach epic proportions off it. We'll see if we can't contribute.

Into 1983

Wednesday's game is an entirely different affair. Games against Newport have been consistently dramatic affairs, over the past few years, with the results having been mixed, to say the least.

There's no indication that Wednesday's visit will be in any way an anti-climax, so having got yourself in the mood again, today, and having suitably loosened the vocal chords, I would have thought that a trip to Kingsholm is a 'must'.

Incidentally, evening game regulars should note that kick-off is at 3.00 o'clock. Just because it's a Wednesday, don't turn up for an evening game, because you will be a bit late if you do.

On Saturday, we welcome London Scottish, which is a pretty good way to see in the New Year. They're always good value, and the fact that Hogmanay seems to go on for about three days, as far as Scots are concerned, will no doubt, add to the convivial nature of the occasion.

If, after that, you feel it's about time you ventured further afield, may we respectfully suggest that a trip to the Reddings on Monday 3rd could well be a project worthy of consideration? The home Moseley game is extremely fresh in our memories, and is highly memorable for a number of reasons. Birmingham isn't so far away that it can't be reached fairly easily, and Moseley hospitality is usually pretty good. The next episode in this soul-stirring saga is certainly one which shouldn't be missed, if you can make it — and the boys will need all the support they can get.

On Saturday 8th, you could easily decide that it's about time you saw how the United are shaping in the New Year. The Visitors will be Leicester, which doesn't need any further eulogies from me.

So there's plenty of good football over the next couple of weeks. Are you getting your share?

International tickets

Just to give you advance warning, if you are one of those provident people who ordered International tickets, early in the season, Terry Tandy tells me he will have them available at the Newport and London Scottish matches. Don't ask him today—Wednesday and Saturday are the operative days, but we thought that a word in your ear might persuade you that there is more than one reason for coming along to one or the other of those two games. If you needed any excuse, that is. And that's doubtful.

John Player

We're already becoming aware of the aura surrounding John Player games, and bearing in mind past history, it's not too surprising.

But, just in case you have recently returned to Gloucester from some far-flung post of Empire — Outer Mongolia, perhaps — and so haven't heard we have been drawn at home against London Welsh, which brings back stirring memories of 1972.

It's certainly great to be drawn at home, but it does necessitate the reminder that it will be an 'all-pay' game. Nothing to do with us, the rules of the competition demand it.

Stand tickets will be on sale very shortly at £2.00 each, but if you prefer, you can simply turn up at the ground and stand up at normal prices.

We are, however, making some slight allowance for our loyal Patrons. Block 'B' — Centre Stand — will be reserved for Patrons until January 8th. After that, it's every man for himself.

Even so, it's worth mentioning that we do have to make due allowances for London Welsh supporters, so if all the usual Patrons apply, there probably won't be enough room for them. It's therefore a good idea to get in early, if the Centre Stand Mafia is your usual scene.

Leicester trip.

Andy Mitchell is busy, in his usual, methodical way, arranging a Patrons trip to Leicester on January 8th. The expedition will take the usual form — coach from Kingsholm, stop for refuelling, time for a quiet spot of liquid relaxation afterwards, and a stop for a meal on the way home. Which isn't a bad format for £3.50.

The last time we made that trip it was certainly one of the highlights of the year, and I know one little bunch of Patrons who are still talking about it. So it's a project to be highly recommended. See Andy in the Bar, after the game.

It's not all Bristol

Regardless of your opinions about the venue for the County Final, it's worth pointing out that Kingsholm won't be a cultural desert on January 29th.

One advantage for Gloucester is that we don't have to muck Bridgend about, which you remember gave us some twinges of conscience the last time the Final came here.

So, if you're one of those — suprisingly numerous — supporters who prefer to watch Gloucester to Gloucestershire, make a note that the little fracas down the A38 will have some competition right here.

Tailpiece

A little bird — actually, it was the Lesser Spotted Tandy (*Tandius Vulgaris*), told us that our super buffet ladies have done their own thing to support the OMT Centenary. In fact, they've baked a cake, iced and suitably inscribed for the occasion. We're hoping that the OMT President will cut it, after the game.

I'm also told that the Ladies would have liked to put one hundred candles on it, but that our fire insurance wouldn't cover it. If I didn't know the culinary expertise of our ladies, I would be tempted to suggest that we gave OMT the cake, before the game, in order to slow them up a bit — but that would be rude, so I won't.

PETER ARNOLD.