



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

## GLOUCESTER v NEWPORT

Wednesday, 29th December, 1982

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

432

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### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	<b>P. Ford</b>
	Three Quarters
*§	14. <b>R. Mogg</b>
	13. <b>C. O'Donoghue</b>
*	12. <b>S. Parsloe</b>
	11. <b>P. Conway</b>
	Half Backs
*	10. <b>L. Jones (Capt.)</b>
	9. <b>W. Hall</b>
	Forwards
*§	1. <b>M. Preedy</b>
	2. <b>K. White</b>
*	3. <b>R. Pascall</b>
*§	4. <b>S. Boyle</b>
§	5. <b>J. Brain</b>
*§	6. <b>J. Gadd</b>
*	7. <b>P. Wood</b>
*	8. <b>A. Turton</b>

#### REPLACEMENTS

\* **P. Taylor**  
**G. Mann**

### NEWPORT

	Full Back
15.	<b>S. Barnes/S. Harris</b>
	Three Quarters
	14. <b>C. Court</b>
	13. <b>D. Pitt</b>
	12. <b>J. Robinson</b>
	11. <b>D. Jones</b>
	Half Backs
	10. <b>K. James</b>
	9. <b>A. Coombs</b>
	Forwards
†	1. <b>C. Smart (Capt.)</b>
	2. <b>M. J. Watkins</b>
	3. <b>R. Morgan</b>
	4. <b>J. Widdecombe</b>
	5. <b>D. Waters</b>
	6. <b>R. Powell</b>
	7. <b>E. Brooks</b>
	8. <b>W. Rendall</b>

#### REPLACEMENTS

Referee: A. THOMSON (Bristol Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



**NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE**

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### **That slightly sinful feeling**

There's always a sense of getting away with something at a match like this. Even during the Christmas break, one's hormones try to tell one that watching a game of Rugby on a weekday afternoon isn't really the done thing: that one should really be doing something constructive in the way of earning an honest crust.

Nevertheless, I expect we can all stifle our consciences sufficiently to give today's visitors the welcome they deserve. Let's face it, even in the halcyon days of last season, Newport gave us an almighty thrashing on the equivalent match to this, played at Rodney Parade. And you'll remember that it was a similar lambasting, two years ago, which led eventually to the team changes which gave us last year's successful campaign.

Of course, the traffic hasn't been one way. The home game at Christmas 1980 saw us win a thriller, by 13 hard-earned points to 11, and last season's home game resulted in a 19-0 victory. So what it amounts to is that you can't really trust the form books, personal reputations or past records when trying to forecast the result of the colourful confrontation between the Cherry and Whites and the Black and Ambers.

One thing is sure, much more experienced Kingsholm hands than I am tell me that Gloucester v. Newport has always been one of the highlights of the Kingsholm Season. Personally, I only go back to the great 44-cap Ken Jones, but I can certainly vouch for the accuracy of that statement since then.

So let's forget what day of the week it is, and simply — as Confucius said — lay back and enjoy it.

The only laying back Newport will be doing, will be good ball to the scrum half, but we hope they enjoy themselves tremendously. We give them the heartiest of Kingsholm welcomes, and thank them for being such a valuable part of the Seasonal scene.

Good to see you again, chaps!

### **Well done John!**

You'll appreciate that even printers are entitled to a Christmas break, and even the ones who produce this programme are no exception. That means that I've had to produce 4 programmes in rapid succession, and that therefore, I couldn't wait for the sort of up-to-date news I generally like to make comments on.

Which is why I've had to wait until December 29th to congratulate John Gadd for his part in the England trial which took place on December 18th. Still, lateness doesn't make our congratulations any less sincere. To have scored the first try in a Trial is just about the best way to ensure that the Selectors take some notice of you, and I gather that John simply didn't put a foot wrong, which, with Moseley's Colin Jeavons now back in the reckoning, could turn out to be vitally important for 'Gaddy's' ambitions.

A 45-7 scorline doesn't give much opportunity for the blokes who turned out for the Rest side to make a great deal of impression, so I don't know how our other representatives fared. I do, however, hear a whisper that Colclough isn't all that happy about being a front jumper, so if there is anything in that, Steve Boyle could yet be in with a chance.

The thought occurs that a one-sided game like that may be very satisfying to the Selectors' ego, but does it really tell them anything they didn't know already? Since the squad system was so successfully introduced by England, there is a good argument for saying that what is needed is a good, hard workout for the England team. This year's Trial wasn't it.

The Rest must, by its very nature, be a scratch side, whereas the England team starts to take on the attributes of a club side. It would therefore make a great deal of sense to pit the Selectors' Chosen Few against an outfit with the same sense of identity.

Wouldn't it make for a more rigorous trial to organise an England v. County Champions side? Apart from anything else, it would attract a bigger gate.

There would, of course, be problems about players who qualified for both sides, but with goodwill all round, that should be capable of resolution.

Right, that's this week's hobby horse well and truly ridden.

### **International Tickets**

All you lucky people who ordered International Tickets, so inordinately early in the season, might like to know that they will be available for you to pick up in the Office today, and they will be on Saturday too.

If you forget, or if your seasonal libations have had the effect of rendering you incapable of carrying those great heavy tickets around, then they will obviously be posted to you in good time, but if you don't trust the Post Office, then perhaps it would be as well to secure your precious pasteboards today.

### **Leicester**

Just in case any Patron hasn't yet heard the glad tidings, Andy Mitchell intends to run a coach to the Leicester game, on Saturday week. If past performance is anything to go by, it will be an extremely good trip.

As I said earlier, I'm having to write this programme quite a bit earlier than usual, so I don't know the score, but I would imagine that by the time you read this, there won't be all that many seats left, so perhaps you should strike while the iron is at least lukewarm, and get in quick.

See Andy with your very modest £3.50 clutched in your hot little hand.

### **London Welsh**

The John Player campaign is almost on us again — and we've got a fixture to make the mouth water. As you'll undoubtedly know, the London Welsh side will be descending on us in force, and even if you didn't have the good fortune to be a Kingsholm regular at the time, everyone will undoubtedly have told you at some length that it was the London Welsh semi-final at Old Deer Park which, in the end, decided the destination of the very first Knock-out Cup.

I suppose it isn't all that unreasonable for London Welsh to want one or two tickets for their own supporters, so we must remember that the whole stand won't be available for our own faithful band of pilgrims. This means that stand tickets will be on sale, but not in the quantities that you might, at first sight, expect. As, under the rules of the Competition, we have to charge everyone for the privilege of coming along — Members, or not — it mightn't be a bad idea if you talk to David Foyle or Terry Tandy as soon as you can.

One refinement is being tried this season. All stand tickets will cost £2.00, but Block 'B' — Centre Stand — will be reserved for Patrons until Saturday, January 8th. After that, anything goes.

And please remember — if every Patron wants a ticket there won't be room in the Centre, anyway, even without the London Welsh incursion, so if you get edged out of your usual seat, don't complain too loudly.

The other alternative is to stand up, which many supporters prefer, in any case. There won't be any Ground tickets — simply turn up at the turnstiles with £1.20 at the ready. But you'd better get along a bit early — not just to ensure you get a good spot, although that's important, but to try to avoid an almighty scrum developing as the Witching Hour Draws Nigh.

### **1983**

The next time I see you it will be next year. I hope I see you on Saturday when the Gaelic invasion from London Scottish arrives, or perhaps you'd like to buy me a beer after the United game against Leicester on January 8th.

After that, you'll have to wait until the John Player on the 22nd, or the match against Bridgend on the 29th.

In other words, there are some great attractions during January. Not a month to be missed.

### **Tailpiece**

The Installation of a new Dean of Gloucester Cathedral is a great event — even a historic one. But it's a shame when it has to interfere with Religion.

Think of me, sitting in the Cathedral, while you're watching England play France, either in person, or on the Box.

PETER ARNOLD.