



# **GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

**GLOUCESTER**  
v.  
**LONDON WELSH**

## **John Player Cup—3rd Round**

**Saturday, 22nd January, 1983**

**Kingsholm, Gloucester**

**Kick-off 3.00 p.m.**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

1464



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### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	P. Ford
	Three Quarters
* 14.	P. Pritchard
13.	C. O'Donoghue
§* 12.	R. Mogg
* 11.	N. Price
	Half Backs
* 10.	L. Jones
9.	W. Hall
	Forwards
*§ 1.	M. Preedy
*† 2.	S. Mills (Capt.)
* 3.	R. Pascall
*§ 4.	S. Boyle
§ 5.	J. Brain
*§ 6.	J. Gadd
7.	I. Smith
8.	J. Bennett

#### REPLACEMENTS

S. Baker  
K. White

### LONDON WELSH

	Full Back
15.	M. Ebsworth
	Three Quarters
14.	A. Yeandle
† 13.	R. Ackerman
12.	J. Hughes
† 11.	C. Rees
	Half Backs
10.	D. Slater
9.	I. George
	Forwards
1.	T. Jones
2.	B. Light
3.	B. Bradley (Capt.)
4.	R. Ford
5.	E. Lewis
6.	I. Smith
7.	M. Knowles
8.	K. Bowring

#### REPLACEMENTS

18. R. Pritchard  
21. R. John

Referee: R. PARKER (N. Midlands Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



**NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE**  
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### Return Fixture

Quite an occasion isn't it? Gloucester's first game in a new John Player Cup season must always be an affair to get the adrenaline flowing, but today's fixture stimulates the imagination more than most.

A great many people won't need telling why, but it comes as something of a shock to realise that the last time we met London Welsh in the competition was over a decade ago, and a great deal of bitter has flowed under the bridgework since then.

To be strictly accurate, Gloucester has, in fact, never met London Welsh in the John Player Cup. That famous 1972 encounter took place before our generous sponsors arrived on the scene, and the affair was simply known as the RFU Club Competition, or something similar. What can be said, however, is that the Gloucester/London Welsh Quarter Final did more to alert people to the potential of the knock-out format than any other match.

There was little doubt that, in those days, London Welsh were the finest side in English club rugby. They could field no less than seven British Lions — fresh from the triumphs in New Zealand — and eleven full Welsh Internationals. Gloucester had a good club side, workmanlike, rather than inspired, and generalised superbly by Micky Booth. On the day, only J. P. R. Williams was absent from the Welsh Exiles. To be frank, no one outside the City boundaries gave us a chance (I know — I was living away from Gloucester at the time).

Yet the team which included John Dawes, Gerald Davies, Geoff Evans, Mike Roberts, John Taylor and the great Mervyn Davies went down by 9 points to 4, only the second defeat which the Welsh had in the last 20 games of that season, which saw them win the Welsh Championship.

I'm not relating this to crow, in any way; it's all history now. But the game did prove that Cup rugby had something which was missing from the normal club variety. It certainly woke people — even including potential sponsors, perhaps? — to interest in the competition.

I'm not alone in thinking that. A recent London Welsh programme stated that the game was "arguably the biggest shock result in the competition". Certainly, it was a bigger 'shock' than Nigel Starmer Smith's description of the result when we beat Gosforth a few years ago, but I mustn't be snide, must I?

### The record

It would be wrong to run away with the idea that London Welsh had disappeared from the competition since we met them last. Their record, since then, includes three Quarter Finals, two Semi Finals and last years 4th-round defeat against Moseley. In fact, it has always taken a fair old side to beat them; they have lost to the eventual Champions on no less than four occasions.

We haven't seen them at Kingsholm since 1974, when they came as part of our Centenary celebrations. We would therefore be extending a more than usually warm welcome to them in any case. In the circumstances, we can't do more than welcome them with open arms. Especially if those arms have a crate of beer in them.

Nice to see you boys! Don't leave it so long next time.

### Clubhouse

Well — we warned you. If you don't have a valid membership card for the Social Club, you'll have difficulty in getting into the Clubhouse, afterwards. We simply don't have room for absolutely everyone, and it's only right that we should be issuing London Welsh supporters with special passes to get in.

If you don't have such a membership card, I'd advise that you don't bother. On the other hand, if you're reading this before the game, then you might just have time to nip into the Club and get one — at the extremely modest price of 50p.

### That Appeal

Of course, if (when!) our ambitious new development plan becomes a reality — and frequenters of the stand side will know that work is now well under way — that situation may be eased a little. Here's a progress report from John Bick.



The first landmark of £10,000 is now well within sight, and may indeed even have been reached by the time you read this. John has given me a list of 29 stalwart individuals who have made an interest-free loan, and to whom thanks of everyone in the Club are due. I can't possibly list them, and indeed, it's doubtful if they would wish me to.

On the 'corporate' front, special thanks are due to two organisations who were very quick off the mark. Namely Nicks and Company (Timber) Limited, and the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society.

To remind you, firms are being asked to make an interest-free loan of £600 for ten years. Individuals can take part in the scheme for £250, on the same terms. In return, special facilities will be provided for subscribers to the scheme.

John Bick asks me to point out that, if you (or your company) don't feel that, in the present economic climate, you can stretch to the full sum, then make any donation you like. It's a case of 'any to come, glad of it', in fact.

#### **Thanks**

You may remember that I managed to get a 'thankyou' note to Barclays Bank for a sponsorship afternoon, into a pre-(or just post-) Christmas programme. It appears that our financial friends were told that I probably wouldn't be able to get it in before today. So just in case they didn't see it — thanks again chaps! We appreciate your support.

Similarly mention of the C&G reminds me to thank and congratulate them on the window display they have arranged in their Westgate Street showroom window. If you haven't had a chance to see it, then it's in association with today's game, and it's well worth a small detour, on your way home.

#### **It's not all Cup Rugby**

Obviously, we're all a bit obsessed with JPC matters, today, but there is plenty coming up to look forward to.

Next Saturday, for example, we are expecting a party from Bridgend to drop in. As you know, we've had to muck them about a bit, over the past season or so, because of County Finals, but if you think that this year's minor fracas, down the A38 isn't quite for you then why not come along here, instead? Should be a good game.

February 4th, this year, falls on a Friday. I make that statement because the away game against Bristol will be played then, so as not to clash with the International. This game has important implications for the Merit Table, and therefore for next year's JPC, so if you feel like lending your voice for the evening — you know what to do.

In fact, the Merit Table issue could well be settled, over the next week or three. On Saturday, February 12th, we entertain Bath, who treated us somewhat unceremoniously when we went down there, so there's a point to prove.

If sitting in front of the box isn't your idea of an afternoon's rugby, then you could eschew that vicarious pleasure, and come along here, where United will be taking on their Bristol counterparts. As the result of the game in Bristol will be fresh in everyone's minds, one side or the other will be trying to prove that they can do better than their Seniors. Which is a point to savour.

#### **Congratulations**

We can't let the occasion pass without congratulating Big John Fidler on his selection for a record-breaking seventh County Final. All things considered, it looks like a record that's going to take some breaking. Similarly, we give our best wishes to the Gloucester contingent who have kept their places, and commiserate with those who just miss out. Never mind; with Bridgend in the air, the County's loss is Gloucester's gain. And I can't help thinking that they'll miss Richard Mogg's tackling against that nippy Yorkshire back line.

#### **Tailpiece**

It has been brought to my attention, as they say, that certain newspapers, in describing today's JPC games have been referring to Lydney as the 'Elver Eaters'. They really should know that that's Gloucester's copyright. Still — I suppose we shouldn't grumble if they inherit our nickname. After all, they inherit enough of our players these days . . .

Nevertheless, we'd all like to see them win, today. Good luck to them!

PETER ARNOLD.