



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. BRIDGEND

Saturday, 29th January, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

0440

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

- 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. Price |
| | 13. C. O'Donoghue |
| §* 12. | R. Mogg |
| * 11. | P. Taylor |
| | Half Backs |
| * 10. | L. Jones |
| | 9. W. Hall |
| | Forwards |
| | 1. P. Jones |
| *† 2. | S. Mills (Capt.) |
| | 3. R. Phillips |
| | 4. N. Scrivens |
| § 5. | J. Brain |
| | 6. D. Spencer |
| | 7. I. Smith |
| § 8. | M. Teague |

REPLACEMENTS

C. Boon
J. Watkins †

BRIDGEND

(Blue & White)

- | | |
|-------|-------------------|
| | Full Back |
| 15. | H. Davies |
| | Three Quarters |
| 14. | F. Owen |
| 13. | P. Daniel |
| 12. | C. Williams |
| 11. | G. Webb |
| | Half Backs |
| † 10. | G. Pearce |
| † 9. | G. Williams |
| | Forwards |
| † 1. | I. Stephens |
| | 2. G. Preddy |
| | 3. M. James |
| | 4. R. Evans |
| † 5. | D. Howe (Capt.) |
| † 6. | G. Williams |
| | 7. M. Budd |
| | 8. I. Penry-Ellis |

REPLACEMENTS

N. Price
L. Davies

Referee: A. TURNER (Lancashire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

• County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

A pleasure deferred . . .

. . . is a pleasure doubled, they say, and we've been anticipating a visit from Bridgend for far too long.

Not that that's any fault of theirs. You'll remember that we had to postpone their last scheduled game here, because the County Championship Final co-incided with it, and that's one fixture you can't very well turn down, if offered.

Today, for better or worse, the decision has taken the Final to Bristol, so, thankfully, we have no reason to trespass on the good nature of our most welcome visitors.

Last season, we did manage to play our away fixture and achieved a very creditable 10 - 10 draw. This year? Well, I've given up prophecying what Gloucester might do, but we could perhaps have wished to pay Bridgend the compliment of turning out a full strength side against them. Our loss, however, is the County's gain.

Bridgend, as ever, seem to be having a good season. They are steaming along nicely in the Welsh Cup, and it has taken very good teams to beat them. But there's nothing new about that. The heyday of Steve Fenwick and J. P. R. Williams may be behind us, but there is no such thing as a weak Bridgend side, and they're going to take some handling today.

All of which makes our visitors doubly welcome. It's high time we saw the blue and white of Bridgend at Kingsholm, and we wish them well, both on and off the field.

JPC

All right, so we lost. Badly. And the people who realise that most keenly are the players. Our job now — yours and mine — is to get behind the lads and give them a lift, as only a Kingsholm crowd can.

So why don't we do just that? No one ever accused us of being fair-weather supporters, whatever else they may have called us. We have the reputation of being the most partisan supporters in English rugby, so now let's show people just how partisan we can be — in the real sense.

After all, if we don't shout for them — no one else will.

While I'm on the subject, we must say 'bad luck' to Lydney. It's interesting to note that, after the game, they were getting some of the same treatment, from some sections of the Press, as we have become used to, and I was pleased to know that Steve Smith is appalled by the interpretation put on some of his remarks.

Now, someone else knows what it feels like.

Now for the Merit Table

Last Saturday's result, of course, puts more pressure on the remaining Merit Table games than ever. You'll know that we have to win two of the remaining three to qualify for next season's John Player. Of course, all three would be better still . . .

After today, we plunge straight into that particular frying pan. On Friday evening next — February 4th — we visit Bristol, who we beat 16 - 9 at home, in September. Now we have to pay the return visit, which will be a different kettle of fish, if you don't mind the mixed metaphor.

Makes a nice weekend, actually. A trip to Bristol on Friday, with England and Wales on the 'box' on Saturday. Why not trot down and support the lads?

On the following Saturday, we have a visit from Bath, who have already put it across us once this season. That makes the hackles rise, somewhat, but it's also worth remembering that this could be the decisive match in the Merit Table saga, and you won't want to miss that.

If you're more interested in the draught department than the bottled, and prefer live rugby to the international variety on the telly, then a visit to Kingsholm on Saturday next could repay your attention.

The United will be taking on their counterparts from Bristol, on that day, and, as the result of the previous evening's fracas at Bristol will be known by then, one side or the other will be trying to redress the balance. Quite a connoisseur's prospect.

Steve's made it at last!

Did you see the picture of Steve Boyle on the back of the 'Daily Mail', last Tuesday. There he was, surrounded by a bevy of very attractive young ladies, claiming virtuously that his elevation to the ranks of the Internationals came because, 19 years ago, he gave up smoking.

Admittedly, there are other things in life than the noxious weed. Like bevvies of attractive young ladies, for example. As a devout and practicing addict of tobacco for the past three decades, I think I know which one gets you into less trouble. Especially with your wife.

Whatever Steve's recipe, however, surely no one can deny him his right to have a crack at the international scene. He's won more England 'B' Caps than any other player, has always been there or thereabouts, as far as international recognition is concerned, and won't let Kingsholm down when he trots out at Cardiff. I hope the unfortunate ankle injury really has made a complete recovery, so that he can live up to the standards which we, here, all know he can achieve.

The Gloucester pack probably know as much about Welsh forwards as anyone in the country, and it does seem singularly appropriate that Steve Boyle makes his debut against the 'Old Enemy' at Cardiff.

Wouldn't it be great if we saw the Boyle cannonball try ...

It used to be said that you can't have a strong England cricket team without a Yorkshireman in it. I'm inclined to think that the same could be claimed for England rugby teams and Gloucester forwards.

Alan Brinn, Mike Burton, John Watkins, Phil Blakeway, and now Steve Boyle. And that is only the comparatively recent crop. It's a record which is difficult to match. And that doesn't count the Argentine duo of John Fidler and Steve Mills.

Best of luck, Steve. We'll be rooting for you. Fervently.

So what's in it for you?

I spent some time, last programme, telling people about the progress of our development Appeal, but didn't have space to point out what you can get for your money. After all, £600 for a company, and £250 for an individual, do warrant some recompense, even if they are only interest-free loans.

New changing rooms, ablutions and toilets are much needed — but they benefit the players. New doctor's facilities, committee room, referee's room and secretary's office have a similarly limited appeal.

But a new dining room area, with modern kitchen — that's a different affair. It's intended that this area will be available for hire to companies, organisations and even individuals, and we are not overburdened with these facilities in Gloucester.

There's considerable merit, too, in the proposal that players and committee members will now share their bar facilities with people who have supported the Appeal. presumably, leaving the skittle alley area free for general use.

So, if you haven't dug deep yet — think about it now, and contact John Bick. After all, you will be getting your money back.

Tailpiece

Talking about Steve Boyle, don't forget the other Steve — Mills of that ilk. After a long and loyal stint sitting on the benches, it does seem, at the time of writing, that he just has an outside chance of a home international Cap, owing to the injury to Peter Wheeler's ankle.

Of course, we wouldn't wish Peter any harm, but we're only human after all ...

PETER ARNOLD.