



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER

v.

BATH

MATCH SPONSORS TODAY

DUCK, SON & PINKER

52 - 56 Southgate Street, Gloucester

Saturday, 12th February, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

0833

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Match sponsor today **DUCK, SON & PINKER**

GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

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

REPLACEMENTS

D. Pointon *
K. White

BATH

(Blue & White)

	Full Back
* 16.	C. Ralston
	Three Quarters
*§ 15.	D. Trick
*§ 14.	J. Palmer
* 12.	S. Halliday
* 11.	B. Trevaskis
	Half Backs
*† 10.	J. P. Horton
* 9.	S. M. Lewis
	Forwards
* 1.	G. Chilott
* 2.	R. Cunningham
* 3.	R. Lee
* 4.	N. Gaymond
*† 5.	R. Hakin
* 6.	R. Spurrell (Capt.)
* 7.	J. Hall
* 8.	P. Simpson

REPLACEMENTS

17. A. Rees
18. P. Turner

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

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Telephone 32088 and 34920

JPC or not JPC?

Somehow or other, matches between Gloucester and Bath have, in recent seasons, always seemed to have been important for reasons other than the regard we hold for our Somerset equivalents. Usually, one game or another has had a big influence on the Merit Table, and therefore, on whether one side or the other has qualified for the following season's John Player Cup. Today, as surely everyone who hasn't been hibernating since September must know, is certainly no exception. In my view that's a nonsense, because any National competition which does not contain all three of Gloucester, Bath and Bristol can't be said to be truly representative of West Country, and therefore English, rugby.

Such considerations are something of a pity, in any case. Bath have graced the Gloucester fixture list for longer than anyone remembers, and we don't need artificial stimulants to welcome the blue, black and white shirts to Kingsholm.

Nevertheless, neither side can afford to lose today's game, which will mean commitment of a high order today.

Bath have always been able to show us an array of talented backs, and the standard has certainly not fallen off this year. By all accounts, the pack has been going well, too, and with a Gloucester eight which is only just pulling itself together after an amazing array of injuries, representative calls, and other misfortunes, the scene is set for an evenly matched struggle.

Last season, for some reason which escapes me, we played Bath three times — twice at Bath and once at Kingsholm. Gloucester won the first one 19-0, handily enough. We struggled a bit on the second encounter, and were a shade lucky to come away with a 15-10 win. It wouldn't be hospitable to go into detail about the end-of-season meeting at Kingsholm: let's just say that a severely weakened Bath side weren't really in with a chance against a full-strength, all-conquering Gloucester side, in their final run-up to the John Player at Twickenham.

It's hard to think of a Club which has, over the years, given us as much pleasure as Bath. Our welcome is therefore sincere and exuberant. Hope you enjoy your visit chaps!

Didn't they do well!

As you well know, there are now two more names to gold-block into the Honours Boards in the Clubhouse, as having played in the Home International Championship. Some highly-qualified people who were at the Arms Park tell me that both Steves, in their respective spheres, were successes in an exciting, if technically mediocre, match. Even the Press seem to be happy with the performances — even one well known journalist, not famous for his enthusiasm for Gloucester, found himself obliged to call Steve Boyle's performance 'satisfactory'. (Thank'ee kind surr — we tugs our forelock to 'ee!).

In fact, 'Boyley' tied the second row together to such effect that the scrum looked considerably more solid than it did against France — and the Welsh front five weren't that weak. He was his usual lively self in the loose, and could even be speculating about an extended holiday next summer.

Steve Mills got his home Cap at last, and didn't let anyone down. I don't recall a strike against him, and his throwing in was flawless, in windy conditions which had the Welsh hooker in trouble on occasion. I suppose one must expect Peter Wheeler to be recalled when he's fit — but he won't significantly strengthen the side if he is.

I don't think we have had an England side (if we ignore the Argentine expeditionary force) with two Gloucester players in it since the heyday of Mike Burton, Alan Brinn and John Watkins. Phil Blakeway and Gordon Sargeant *did* play in the same game, but 'Sarge' came on to replace Phil, that day — there's a good catch question for people who like that sort of thing.

Many congratulations to both of them. I was delighted to see that both of them had piles of good luck messages beforehand.

United take a bow

At tree-mendous expense, fresh from their triumph over Bristol, we welcome a couple of appearances by the United side during the next couple of weeks. Next Saturday they will be taking on Moseley, and that should be an encounter to remember. On the 26th, the visitors will be Rosslyn Park, so you couldn't wish for a pair of games more attractive than that.

The senior team will be playing at home next on March 4th, which please note, is a Friday, because England are playing Scotland at Twickenham on the Saturday. The opposition will be Northampton — again one of the good old fixtures which Kingsholm regulars won't want to miss. See you then.

Duck, Son & Pinker's big day!

It's always a happy occasion when our good friends from Duck, Son and Pinker sponsor a game — which happens with gratifying regularity — but today is special, even by their standards.

Bath is, of course, the home of Duck, Son and Pinker. So Laurence Hull and his happy band are delighted to welcome very senior representation from Head Office, as it were. I'm sure that the visitors will take our word for it when we say that their Southgate Street branch is undoubtedly the leading supplier of musical instruments and music to the ancient City of Gloucester, and that no good Kingsholm supporter would dream of buying a video, TV or tranny without having a look at the Duck, Son and Pinker offerings first.

Obviously, Gloucester RFC is unendingly grateful for the support which Duck, Son and Pinker so generously provide. But the City itself is glad to have such a respected and old-established company in the music field, well and truly rooted in one of our prime shopping positions. We'd be the poorer without you, chaps! Thanks for everything!

Welcome your Worship!

Duck, Son and Pinker always bring some interesting guests, but this time, they've excelled themselves. We are honoured to welcome His Worship the Mayor of Bath, Councillor L. Coombs, with the Mayoress, Mrs. Coombs.

I gather that this is rather more than a straightforward civic duty for Mr. and Mrs. Coombs, as they're both keen on their rugby — in fact a little bird whispers that the Mayoress is the keener of the two.

Nice to know that we're not the only first-class Club with a tradition of rugby-supporting Mayors.

Welcome to Kingsholm, Your Worships! Come again — any time!

... it's an ill wind

You might like to know that our allocation of stand tickets for last Saturday's International was just two. 2. II. A brace, pair or couple. Doesn't seem like many. I would have thought, for one of England's premier club's and one of the two nearest to Cardiff, at that.

The problem was — how to allocate them? First come first served wouldn't have worked, because we had far more requests than that arriving at the same time. A draw would have been just plain silly.

In the end, it was decided to allocate them to Wilf Speller and his son, who do such sterling work on the pitch, for year after year, maintaining our reputation of having the best playing surface outside Twickenham.

I'm sure no one will criticise that, and it's a concrete way of expressing our appreciation for a hard and demanding job, supremely well done. It's just a pity that a lot of other people couldn't have benefitted as well.

Appeal

As it's the last chance I shall have to do so, for a week or two, perhaps you'll forgive me for making another appeal on behalf of the Appeal. You must admit that the new changing rooms, social facilities and other amenities will make a huge difference to the ground, and give Gloucester RFC the accommodation it deserves.

Anyone interested in the interest-free loan scheme — or just willing to put their hands in their pockets — contact John Bick. If not here then at The Bowery, Bull's Hill, Walford, Nr. Ross-on-Wye.

Tailpiece

Just a thought about the International. We must be the only Club who can claim to have had as many players in the match as we had stand tickets. Perhaps if we get four next time, Malcolm Preedy and John Gadd can play too.

PETER ARNOLD