



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

MATCH SPONSORS TODAY

DUTSTONE MOTORS, Eastern Avenue

Friday, 4th March, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

526

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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.	M. Hamlin
§ 9.	S. Baker
	Forwards
*§ 1.	M. Preedy (Capt.)
	2. K. White
	3. R. Phillips
* 4.	J. Orwin
	5. J. Brain
	6. J. Bennett
	7. I. Smith
*§ 8.	M. Teague
	REPLACEMENTS
	T. Smith
	J. Watkins †*

NORTHAMPTON

	Full Back
15.	J. Sharpe
	Three Quarters
14.	M. Summers
13.	A. Street
12.	J. Cubitt
11.	N. Underwood
	Half Backs
10.	A. Johnson
† 9.	J. Page
	Forwards
1.	I. Heywood
2.	J. Raphael
3.	N. Fox
4.	V. Cannon (Capt.)
5.	K. Jensen
6.	D. Causebrook
7.	I. White
8.	C. Folwell
	REPLACEMENTS
	K. Parker
	D. Newman

Referee: I. BROWN (N. Midlands Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

• County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
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Saints alive!

It has to be admitted that Gloucester and Northampton do have at least one thing in common — neither side is doing very well at the moment. Which does have one considerable advantage this evening.

All the tumult and the shouting has died. Neither of us has any interest in the John Player, Merit Tables are not involved, pressures are off, and we can all return to that increasingly rare pleasure, a good, old-fashioned, club rugby match played for no other reason than the sheer fun of it.

It's something of a relief, but we must say that Gloucester and Saints matches have always been played in that spirit. When we think of some of the great characters of the game who have come here proudly wearing the black, green and gold, we begin to appreciate that our fixtures have reflected the very best in English club rugby — and we didn't need artificial stimulants like cup competitions to take full advantage of that fact.

Ron Jacobs, 'Jacko' Page (still playing, when last heard of), Don White . . . you can add to the list yourself — all great players, all fine sportsmen, all advertisements for the game. English rugby has a lot to thank Northampton for. We hear that a few years ago, they had financial trouble, and I even heard that there was some doubt that the club would be able to continue.

We're all profoundly grateful that reports of the Saints' untimely demise were greatly exaggerated — indeed we never believed for one moment that the unthinkable could happen. It's certainly a bit difficult to imagine a season without Northampton on our fixture list.

The ancient town of Northampton has two main claims to fame — its rugby club, and the Carlsberg Brewery. Both have a very famous special brew — and it's the rugby variety we'll be savouring tonight.

Welcome, all you Saints. We hope you enjoy the evening as much as we always enjoy having you.

Freddy and Bill

It is with sadness and a sense of homage to the past that we have to record the passing of two of the stalwart names of Gloucester rugby football — those of Freddie Webb and Bill Cale.

Much has been written elsewhere of the achievements of that great winger and Captain. He was Captain in 1920, and scored some of the best tries ever seen at Kingsholm. At least one correspondent to the 'Citizen' remembers a finger-tip tackle that saved the game when Gloucester beat the until-then invincible Newport side.

Perhaps Bill Cale didn't reach the peaks of performance that Fred Webb did, in his playing days, but he was at least as well known in many other respects. He helped with the administration of the Club for many years, and players will remember him as a conscientious baggage man at away matches.

More recently he used his considerable experience on the ground staff, and must therefore be given some of the credit for the best playing surface in England, outside Twickenham.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the families of both of these Kingsholm 'greats'. It was a privilege to have shared the same Club with them.

Steve's still there!

Surely, there isn't anyone in England who knows anything about front-of-the-line lock forward play who will have been surprised that Steve Boyle has retained his England place. One is even tempted to remark that a couple more performances like that, and he could well make the spot his own, Colclough and Bainbridge or no Colclough and Bainbridge. One might also wonder if his presence had anything to do with the slightly panicky dismissal of both Scottish locks, one of whom has been replaced by a specialist number eight. I can't imagine that 'Boyley' will be too unhappy about that.

Anyway, best of luck to him, from all of us. Who knows — if he does well enough in the two remaining internationals, New Zealand might even beckon.

It's also nice to be able to congratulate Steve on his selection for the Barbarians side to play East Midlands in the annual — and very prestigious — Mobbs Memorial Match. Appropriately enough, it is to be played at Northampton, so although he is missing out on this evening's festivities, he will be able to sample some of that Northampton hospitality.

We also can't let this particular set of scribbles go by without comiserating with Steve Mills on being passed over for the Scottish game. I suppose it was to be expected that Peter Wheeler would be recalled, although I can't help remembering the whole string of players, over the years, who have lost their places through injury and then found it impossible to get them back because of the excellence of their replacements. My own view, for what it is worth, is that Steve performed at least as well as Wheeler would have done against Wales — possibly even better, in the light of the Scottish experience against Wales the other Saturday. It's hard on Steve that he has beaten off the challenge of a whole string of contenders put up against him, over the years, but still finds his way blocked by one of the great practitioners of the art of hooking.

Bad luck Skip! Stick with it, and surely the gods must be on the side of talent and endeavour — not to mention loyalty — at some time or other.

Finally, we were delighted to learn of Malcolm Preedy's summer in New Zealand. The experience can't be anything but invaluable for him, and he should come back even more equipped for an eventual England Cap.

And who knows — he might be in a position to give the Lions a problem or two!

Soon be mid-week games again

This season really seems to have flown by. Here we are in March already. Next Saturday we're away to Richmond, and our next home game is against Abertillery on Wednesday, March 16th, followed by a Friday night visit by the formidable Orrell side.

If you fancy a short saunter to foreign parts, it might be worth going to Cheltenham, next Wednesday to see how the United perform.

Thanks to Dutstone

Grateful thanks to our generous friends from Dutstone Motors, who are sponsoring tonight's game. They point out that, although much is being said, at the moment, about the new BL 'Maestro', and new BMW's to be unveiled this weekend, you shouldn't miss some new Datsun vehicles, now on display at their spacious and easily accessible showroom on Eastern Avenue.

It's also worth stating that although Dutstone are famous for their handling of the Datsun range, they have a lot of other things going for them too. They can claim that their service facilities are second to none in the area, for example.

Similarly, it doesn't really matter what your particular preference in vehicles is, or indeed, if you have strong feelings on the point. You can always find a more than useful range of quality used cars at Dutstone, and the well-laid out facilities at Eastern Avenue positively invite you to snoop around and investigate to your heart's content.

Well — rugby men always know who their friends are, and we would as soon give our custom to someone who supports us as to anyone else. So when you're in the market, 'Think On' as Geoffrey Boycott would, no doubt say (How did he get in here?).

Thanks again Mr. Jeavons, and everyone else at Dutstone. Hope your generosity does you as much good as you deserve.

... And talking of generous friends.

John Bick asks me to record his grateful appreciation to two important new benefactors to the Appeal Fund, which is now well into its second £10,000.

Peter Ford Transport has now signed up with their £600 interest free loan, as has Lloyds Bank. In the latter case we can't help thinking that whenever one of the big banks makes an important announcement — like putting their interest rates up — the others fall into line pretty promptly. Wouldn't it be nice if they followed that precedent this time?

Also to point out that you don't have to make your £250 interest-free loan to take part. Any contributions are gratefully received, anytime. See John Bick.

Tailpiece

Just to put on record that I'm not here tonight because I'm speaking at the Annual Welsh Society Banquet. Bearing in mind some of the things I say about Welsh rugby people, that's rather like General Custer being invited to dinner at the Little Big Horn.

If I'm not home by morning, send a Task Force.

PETER ARNOLD.