



# **GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

## **GLOUCESTER**

v.

## **ORRELL**

**Friday, 18th March, 1983**

**Kingsholm, Gloucester**

**Kick-off 7.00 p.m.**

537

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p



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### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
|        | Full Back         |
| 15.    | T. Smith          |
|        | Three Quarters    |
| * 14.  | P. Pritchard      |
| *§ 13. | R. Mogg           |
|        | 12. C. O'Donoghue |
| * 11.  | N. Price          |
|        | Half Backs        |
| * 10.  | L. Jones (Capt.)  |
| § 9.   | S. Baker          |
|        | Forwards          |
| *§ 1.  | M. Preedy         |
|        | 2. K. White       |
|        | 3. R. Phillips    |
|        | 4. N. Scrivens    |
| § 5.   | J. Brain          |
| * 6.   | P. Wood           |
|        | 7. M. Longstaff   |
| *§ 8.  | M. Teague         |

#### REPLACEMENTS

M. Hamlin  
I. Roberts

### ORRELL

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
|       | Full Back              |
| * 15. | S. Langford            |
|       | Three Quarters         |
| 14.   | I. MacMillan           |
| * 13. | F. Clough              |
| * 12. | P. Phillips            |
| 11.   | I. Wilkinson           |
|       | Half Backs             |
| * 10. | P. Williams            |
| 9.    | I. Wright              |
|       | Forwards               |
| 1.    | K. Fletcher            |
| 2.    | N. Hitchen             |
| * 3.  | D. V. Southern (Capt.) |
| * 4.  | D. Cusani              |
| 5.    | R. Kimmins             |
| 6.    | C. Haylin              |
| * 7.  | D. Balmer              |
| 8.    | D. Cleary              |

#### REPLACEMENTS

G. Jones  
P. Burns

Referee: D. ABRAHAMS (N. Midlands Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



**NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE**  
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### **Cocks of the North?**

This evening sees the first of a series of matches which impart a decided Northern flavour to the end of the season. New Brighton, Fylde, Sale and Waterloo all feature on the Gloucester fixture list during April, but tonight's visitors can hold up their heads with any of them.

Which says something about the changeable nature of English club rugby. If you come to think about it, even a comparatively few years ago, Orrell was one of those sides you'd vaguely heard of, but didn't particularly show any interest in. Perhaps you might compare them, in your own mind, with Wilmslow or Morley. You certainly wouldn't have put them in the same class as — say — Sale or Gosforth.

All that has changed, however. The likes of John Carleton, Steve Bainbridge (for a while), and more recently, Dave Cusani have given the Lancashire club a reputation which certainly isn't to be trifled with. I doubt if there's a team in the country, nowadays, who can afford to take Orrell lightly.

In fact, tonight's visitors haven't been to Kingsholm all that frequently, which, of course, makes them all the more welcome. In this part of the world, we tend to associate black and amber with our old rivals from Newport, but it's good to be reminded that the Rodney Road lads don't have a monopoly on that particular colour scheme, and that those colours spell a hard game, whoever is wearing them.

The Wigan neighbourhood is a long way to come for an evening match, so the least we can do is give them our warmest welcome, and make sure they have a good game, and a fair amount of hospitality afterwards.

Nice to see you, Orrell. Perhaps we can get on to a home-and-away basis, one of these days.

### **Come on Steve!**

You wouldn't forgive me if I didn't send all our best wishes to Steve Boyle in his first foray across the Irish Sea tomorrow. He's certainly deserved his retention, and Orrell's Mr. Cusani must be very well aware that Big Steve is a very considerable barrier to his winning his first Cap.

We hope Steve Mills enjoys his trip too. Would it be too pointed to comment that he surely wouldn't have given away three against the head in the Scottish match?

### **... and 'Bon Voyage' to Malcolm**

We should also wish Malcolm Preedy 'all the best' on his trip to New Zealand — I understand he leaves before very long, and that this is the last opportunity I have to give him our good wishes before he goes.

There's no doubt, it's going to be a terrific experience for him. A stint in New Zealand club rugby can't do him anything but good, and the chances must be very high that he will come back an even better prop than he is now. The thought occurs that, in the event of an injury or two, the Lions might well be glad that they have a prop salted away in case of emergencies. Of course, we wouldn't wish anyone any harm . . .

So — best of luck Malcolm. Don't be tempted to stay on. We'd rather see you in an England shirt than an All Black one!

Incidentally, can anyone remember a younger captain of Gloucester than Malcolm Preedy in the Richmond match?

### **'Ow about a trip to Demshire?**

Andy Mitchell tells us that he is going to arrange a Patron's coach to the Exeter match on April 23rd. Assuming that you would find Waterloo a bit too far to go, on the following Saturday, it would be a fine way to finish off the season.

I gather that the format would be very much the traditional one, and the cost will be £3.50. Old habitués of the Mitchell Safaris will know precisely what that means, and new ones shouldn't expect any resemblance to a Band of Hope picnic.



If the final Merit Table game of the season has any attraction for you — and why not? — see Andy in the Clubhouse.

#### **Coming up to Easter**

Although the next home game for the First team isn't until Easter Saturday, you don't have to settle for moto-cross on the Box. Next Wednesday (March 23rd), we are paying a visit to Cheltenham, and those games are always worth seeing.

Please note, also, that the Lydney match has been pulled forward a couple of days, to Tuesday, March 29th. This is to allow the Lydney lads to have more time to pack their vanity bags for their trip to the United States — for which we wish them every success, both on the field and off it.

Easter kicks off with a visit from New Brighton on the Saturday, and continues with the arrival of a task force from Fylde, both of which should be worth watching.

Our last home fixture this season is a real 'plum'. We haven't seen Neath for quite a while, and it will be very good to welcome them on April 9th.

Of course, the United still have a game or two to go. They'll be entertaining Pontypridd on Saturday next (26th), and have Salisbury to contend with on April 16th (but see the note, below). They then finish their home season with Exeter on April 23rd.

So the season's got a kick or two left in it yet. See you somewhere along the way.

#### **Colts International**

The reason for the slight hedge on the information about the United game on April 16th is that, on that day, the England v. Wales Colts game will be played at Kingsholm. Terry Tandy tells me that he hopes that the Salisbury game will go ahead, possibly with an early evening kick off — which could make for a fair old day's rugby. That's yet to be confirmed, though.

Nevertheless, whatever the decision on the United game, you surely won't want to miss the Colts International. The quality of play in those games is proverbially sparkling, and Colin Sibery (who knows as much about Colts rugby as any man) tells me that this one should not be any exception.

By the time you read this, Stand tickets will be on sale, although at the time of writing, I don't know anything about prices. Ground admission is simply pay-at-the-gate.

Should be a great day. I shall certainly be there, and look forward to seeing you.

#### **John Player**

Bristol could have hoped for a better draw for the Semi-finals than Coventry at Coundon Road, but they're quite capable of winning it, in spite of the superlative season which 'Cov' have had.

Bristol have never had a very good run in the Cup, and we'd all like them to go all the way this year. Surely, if Gloucester can't be there, then the team we would all wish to see win the Cup is our Old Enemy from down the A38, and I'm sure you'd wish me to express our fervent support for our fellow West Countrymen.

It might be worth mentioning that Bristol once had a season out of the Cup, and it hasn't done them any harm. But I must repeat what I have said before — any affair without all three of Bath, Bristol and Gloucester participating, can't be called a truly national competition.

#### **Tailpiece**

Did you see that there's a plan to site an indoor rifle range alongside the Gloucester Old Boys Clubhouse? We know that Viv Woolley doesn't like referees, but isn't that a bit extreme?

PETER ARNOLD