



GLoucester RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLoucester v. STROUD

MATCH SPONSOR TODAY
RICHARD COUND LTD.
Kingsholm, Gloucester

Thursday, 1st September, 1983
Kingsholm, Gloucester
Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

865

- 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

Match sponsor today **RICHARD COUND LTD.**

GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back

15. T. Smith

Three Quarters

* 14. P. Pritchard

*§ 13. R. Mogg

* 12. P. Taylor

* 11. N. Price

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

§ 9. S. Baker

Forwards

*† 1. G. Sargent (Capt.)

*† 2. S. Mills

*† 3. P. Blakeway

* 4. J. Orwin

§ 5. J. Brain

*§ 6. J. Gadd

7. M. Longstaff

*§ 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

R. Wilmott

N. Scrivens

STROUD

Blue & White

Full Back

15. M. Camm (Capt.)

Three Quarters

14. S. Bird

13. A. Parslowe

12. S. Clewes

11. J. Breeze

Half Backs

* 10. S. Parslowe

9. T. Davis

Forwards

1. R. Allan

2. G. Trot

3. A. Dix

4. C. Edmunds

5. R. Foote

6. H. Godsell

7. D. Morrissey

8. A. Wynter

REPLACEMENTS

J. Gribble

T. Cound

Referee: JOHN PRITCHARD (Warwickshire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

The longest four months in the year

How is it that the rugby season's eight months seem to be no longer than the four months of the close season? For some reason, this year's summer break has appeared to be interminable. Never mind — we're all back now.

But things aren't quite the same. We have a new Captain, new and vastly improved changing facilities, and perhaps, a new spirit pervades the air.

No doubt we'll be seeing some new faces on the field, as the season develops too — and we're delighted to welcome back some old ones which we thought we might have lost. Phil Blakeway and Mike Longstaff, in particular.

Isn't it nice to be back!

It still hurts!

Last year's early game against Stroud was, you will undoubtedly remember, a turn-up. While we always have a healthy respect for our local rivals, it still hurts when we lose to them. Last year's 16-21 defeat, unfortunately, did seem to set the tone for the season, and heralded a successful campaign for Stroud as well.

To put things in context, the last time tonight's visitors were here, they had to be content with the sticky end of a 22-3 scoreline, which proved to be the omen for one of our best seasons ever, so perhaps one can read portents for the future in whatever happens tonight.

One thing's for sure. It never does to take Stroud lightly. They're always welcome visitors and we couldn't wish for anyone better to kick off an exceptionally testing period for us.

Are you looking in the right direction?

I wouldn't mind betting that, without this note, the vast majority of Kingsholm regulars would have been gazing in the wrong direction as the witching hour approaches. It's going to take a bit of time to get used to watching the teams run out from under the stands, instead of the clock.

The reason, of course, is that players are now changing in facilities which, I am assured, are as good as any in England. And, it's worth remembering, that is the main objective of the building programme which is nearing completion.

I say 'nearing completion', because, although the changing rooms were in operation for the trial games, it has taken a bit of gut-busting to get the other facilities ready on time. Indeed, at the time of writing — they weren't.

Obviously, it's going to take a while for things to shake down properly. Although the intention, at the moment, is to open the new bar to everyone at 7.00 on Saturday evenings (Players, committee members and special guests before that), experience may indicate some variation as time goes on. In any case, no one is going to sit there with a stop watch, and if the place is half empty, it would be stupid not to open the thing generally.

Similarly, on match evenings, it looks as if the new bar won't be open to everyone at all. But should there be plenty of room, it will be opened up generally.

It doesn't make sense to be hard and fast about these things until we know what we're about.

The Appeal

Terry Tandy asks me to thank everyone who has taken part in the £250 interest-free loan appeal (£650 for organisations), which has now reached the un hoped-for figure of over £20,000. The books aren't closed yet, and won't be for another month or so. If, therefore, you are thinking of having a dabble yourself, see John Bick, or any Committee Member, for that matter.

Meanwhile, heartfelt thanks to all those people who there simply isn't space to mention by name.

Well done, hard luck, and thanks

Several playing personalities ought to be mentioned tonight. Pride of place should, in my opinion, go to Steve Mills, who has handed over the reins to Gordon Sargent after a distinguished three-year stint as Club Captain, OK — so last season wasn't the greatest, but the one before may have been just that, and much of the credit must surely go to Steve. We all thank you for an honest job, well done, Steve. Surely your chance of an extended England run must now come.

Second, we must say 'well done and hard luck' to Steve Boyle. I've said before that the ays of Selectors are like the Peace of God — they passeth all understanding, and I've never seen a better example of that than the selections in New Zealand. They picked just one specialist front-of-the-line jumper to go on the Lions tour, in 'Boily', and then didn't use him, even in all the drama and tribulation they were experiencing. The limited amount of TV action which featured Big Steve seemed, to my eyes, to prove that he was playing well and doing everything right, but he still didn't get his chance at a Big One. Nevertheless, all reports indicate that Steve was the best off-the-field tourist of them all, and to that extent, he did us proud.

Third, thanks to Gordon Sargent for taking on the Captaincy in a very testing time. It's always good to see 'Sarge' in a cherry-and-white strip, and for him to abandon his efforts for the very good Lydney side to return and help us out is gratifying to say the least.

Thanks, Sarge — and the best of luck!

International tickets

We've got a bit of a panic on here. You'll have to read that an International has been arranged against the All Blacks for November 19th, so if members want tickets, they must get their applications into David Foyle, or the Office, just about immediately. With remittance. Prices are, £9.20 and £7.20 for the Stand, £5.70 and £4.70, Ringside. Standing prices are £4.70 Enclosure, and £2.70 Ground only. So don't 'ang about, if you fancy the trip.

For the other home internationals, you have until September 26th to get your application (plus money) to David Foyle. Forms available from the office.

Thanks to Richard Cound

This game is the first sponsored one of the season. And it's our neighbour Richard Cound who has made the generous gesture. It's nice for the area's leading BMW dealer to come forward so readily, and it's no hardship for you to take a look at the magnificent vehicles the company has on offer, just by strolling over the road.

Incidentally, you may have noticed that his hospitality bus (might even be 'buses, by now), are esconced on the Ground, and although they are obviously going to use them tonight, they're not going away after the game. They will, in fact, be available for use by other sponsors as the season progresses — which is an added incentive.

Thanks gentlemen. It's great to have you on the Kingsholm scene.

Incidentally, Fred Reed has taken over responsibility for sponsorship matters, should your company want to take advantage of the system.

Hard pounding, gentlemen!

We're not actually playing Waterloo this September, but the Duke of Wellington's famous remark might have been made for the toughest start we've had for years. The first instalment is the trip to Swansea on Saturday, followed by a visit from Coventry on September 10th.

Meanwhile, United entertain Broughton Park on Saturday, and they are certain to provide a suitable warm up for the tough Newport High School Old Boys side who arrive on the following Monday. So we have an intriguing start to the season.

Incidentally, I'm told that there was a request for more United news at the AGM (Sorry I couldn't get along), and I'll see what I can do. Additionally, they tell me that there's every likelihood of a teamsheet for United home matches this year, which will please the army of supporters United have in their own right.

Tailpiece

Supporters in Block C and part of the Centre of the Stand might get additional entertainment this season. Not to mention a smell of wintergreen and assorted embrocation. They'll be sitting right above the changing rooms — so you never know what pearls of wisdom colourfully expressed, might waft through the ceiling. You have been warned!

PETER ARNOLD.