



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

## GLOUCESTER v. COVENTRY

**Saturday, 10th September, 1983**

**Kingsholm, Gloucester**

**kick-off 3.0 p.m.**

0111

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p



- 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.	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.	D. Spencer
REPLACEMENTS	
G. Thomas	
G. Manns	

### COVENTRY

Blue & White

Full Back	
† 15.	P. Rossborough
Three Quarters	
14.	S. Maisey
13.	J. Cook
§ 12.	T. Buttimore
11.	M. Summers
Half Backs	
10.	N. Wright
9.	S. Thomas (Capt.)
Forwards	
1.	L. Johnson
2.	S. Brain
§ 3.	M. Hobley
4.	M. Fleetwood
5.	R. Fardoe
6.	P. Thomas
7.	M. Malik
8.	G. Robbins
REPLACEMENTS	
R. West	
S. Wilkes	

Referee: G. CRAWFORD (London Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



**NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE**  
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920



**... and this is where the story really starts**

There isn't much doubt that, in many people's minds, the Season starts with the first Saturday home match, and even a preliminary run-out against Stroud, and a skirmish at Swansea aren't going to alter that.

That being so, we could hardly have chosen a more welcome visiting side than Coventry to help us open the 1983/4 campaign in style.

For as long as most of us remember — and that's a depressingly long time, in my case — 'Cov' have been among our more respected opponents, and their Kingsholm venture has been one of the high spots of the year. In recent seasons, attention has been focussed on the John Player matches, where we've always found a trip to Coundon road barring the way to further progress. On those occasions, the hospitality, before and after the game, has been memorable, and I hope that our new facilities will help us to live up to it.

Coventry have certainly started the season in style, putting it across our old sparring partners at Newport, and that's never easy on their own patch.

Of course, Huw Davies has now departed for the more rarefied atmosphere of London Rugby, but we all remember John Wright from his Lancashire and Sale days, and there would certainly be an argument for expecting him to fit into Coventry Rugby rather more appropriately than his more publicised predecessor.

Last season, this equivalent match was played at Coventry, of course, and we felt then that losing to 'Cov' by 10 points to 12 wasn't too bad an effort, all things considered. As the year went on, however, Coventry entered a purple patch, and Gloucester — didn't. So we were grieved, if not particularly surprised to be handed out a 3-15 thrashing at Kingsholm, just before Christmas.

So this game is specially interesting. Welcome Coventry — we hope you enjoy your trip.

**Ooh! Ar! boyoes!**

... which is a shorthand way of pointing out that our next two home fixtures are against Cornish and Welsh opposition.

Launceston, who we welcome on Wednesday next (14th), aren't a team which spring readily to mind when one thinks of Cornish rugby, but any side which can win precedence over the likes of Camborne can't be written off. Anyway, it's always nice to see new faces, and the game does have implications for the Merit Table, and therefore for next year's JPC, so your support would be in order.

Saturday the 17th sees a visit from Pontypridd, and we have had some memorable conversations with them, in recent seasons, both on the field and at the bars in our respective clubhouses. Certainly not one to be missed if you can possibly avoid it.

On the following Wednesday, we have the return of Cardiff — here to help us officially open our new facilities. More details next week. The thought does occur, however, that they lost when they came here last.

**Good start and an extra match**

Congratulations to the United for an excellent start to the season. Broughton Park and Newport HSOB is strong opposition, and to have beaten both of them very handily indeed is noteworthy, to say the least.

It would be invidious, at this stage, to mention names, but it seems obvious, from reports I've received, that a few United players are going to take some keeping out of the first team, as the season progresses. And that's a healthy sign.

Competition for United places is intense too. It's good to see new faces in the cherry-and-white strip, and in order to have another look at one or two of them, an extra fixture has been arranged for next Monday, when the North Gloucester Combination is fielding a side at fairly short notice.

There are quite a few local teams who reckon that they could give United a fair trot, and here's a chance to see just how the strength of local rugby does compare.

And it's an extra evening out isn't it?



### **Bick's the boy!**

As we said last time, the Appeal in connection with the new facilities is still alive and kicking, at least for another month, so you've still got time to take part. In addition, John Bick is to run a major draw with a lot of excellent prizes, and you can get details from him. At the moment, there's a gallon of brandy to be won, and that can't be bad if you happen to be trapped in the snow without a convenient St. Bernard. Purely medicinal, of course.

We said last time that the list of donations to the Appeal was too long to mention everyone, but John Bick did ask us to make an exception in one case. And it might surprise you to know that the exception he has in mind is the Gloucester City Council.

They gave us a very healthy contribution via the City Lottery, and that's noteworthy on two counts. First of all because the Club has never sought lottery money before, knowing that the fund is intended to benefit rather smaller organisations than Gloucester RFC. However, the City Fathers took the view that they could make an exception in this case, because of the importance of the Appeal, and because the vastly improved facilities, some of which will be available for public use, provide an extra resource for entertainment close to the City centre. Anyway, the Council is as keen on seeing Gloucester as the best damned Club in the country as anyone is.

### **First fiver**

The distinction of winning the first lucky programme fiver of 1983/4 fell to Mr. R. Hughes of 27, Millford Close, Longlevens. He achieved it by buying programme no. 110 at the Stroud match, which was a gratifying good start to the season for him.

First of the season it may have been, but we doubt very much whether he'll frame it and hang it on the wall on that account.

### **Anybody here seen Terry?**

Our substantial Club Secretary, Terry Tandy, isn't exactly an easy chap to miss, but he isn't in his old haunts, these days, so you may have wondered where he's got to.

The answer is simple. The Office, where he performs his esoteric rituals, has now been established at the rear of the main stand. Furthermore, he can't really watch the game from his old spot, because the Richard Cound double decker bus is now squarely in the way, and even Terry objects to buying a Rover Ticket whenever he wants to watch a little rugby.

### **International tickets**

And talking of the Office, don't forget that time is running out rapidly if you want to apply for International tickets this season.

### **Tailpiece**

As last year, I had the greatest of pleasure in introducing two German friends from our twin town of Trier to the delights of rugby football at the Stroud match, ably abetted by Norman Partridge.

They were delighted with the whole thing, beer included. One incident specially pleased them.

You may remember that, on one occasion, a Stroud player succeeded in charging down a kick with a particularly sensitive part of his anatomy. Naturally, we told them the appropriate comment to shout. Which they did, and continued to do for days afterwards.

As late as last Saturday morning, the Trier exhibition in Bell Walk could be heard resounding to Teutonic cries of: "You do not rub zem — you count zem!"

Sorry Ladies.

PETER ARNOLD.