



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

SPONSORS FOR THIS EVENING'S GAME
BASS WALES & WEST LTD.

Wednesday, 21st September, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

168

- 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

BALL FOR THIS EVENING'S GAME DONATED BY
MR. & MRS. W. R. E. IDDLES

GLOUCESTER	
Cherry & White	
Full Back	
15.	T. Smith
Three Quarters	
14.	D. Morgan
* 13.	P. Taylor
*§ 12.	R. Mogg
* 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. Fidler
*§ 6.	J. Gadd
7.	D. Spencer
*§ 8.	M. Teague
REPLACEMENTS	
R. Wilmott	
K. White	

CARDIFF	
Light Blue & Dark Blue	
Full Back	
15.	P. Reece
Three Quarters	
14.	D. Preece
13.	D. Barry
12.	R. James
11.	A. Headley
Half Backs	
† 10.	G. Davies
9.	G. Williams
Forwards	
1.	J. Whitefoot
† 2.	A. Philips
3.	C. Collins
4.	K. Thompson
5.	T. Mogridge
6.	R. Lakin
7.	O. Golding
† 8.	J. Scott (Capt.)
REPLACEMENTS	

Referee: Mr. A. WELSBY (Manchester Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

Opening night

Cardiff. That one word spells volumes, and I hardly need to say more in welcoming tonight's visitors. We all regretted the suspension of fixtures in 1979, but a mere four years between matches is a hiccup when seen against the background of over a century of games between our two great clubs.

The names of living legends who have worn the blue and black shirts at Kingsholm roll of the tongue — Jack Matthews, Bleddyn Williams, Hadyn Tanner, Billy Cleaver, Cliff Morgan, Gerald Davies and we couldn't wish for more welcome visitors than the successors of those giants to help us inaugurate our fine new complex.

The last time Cardiff visited Kingsholm, Gloucester won by six points to three, but a lot of beer has flowed under the bridgework since then, and comparisons are difficult. We do note, however, that Cardiff came from behind with a late scoring burst to beat Coventry last Saturday, while Gloucester performed the same discourtesy, a couple of weeks ago, without more than the normal amount of difficulty.

So, all things considered, tonight might see a real cracker. We hope so, because the occasion warrants it.

Welcome Cardiff! It's an important night for us, and we're glad you can be here to share it with us.

Coach on Saturday

Terry Close tells me that the Social Club is running a coach to Bristol on Saturday — cost £2.00. Last I heard, tickets were going fast, but those that are left will be on sale — by Terry Close — OUTSIDE the clubhouse after the game.

Social Club Membership

. . . of course, it has to be 'outside', because we are expecting a scrum inside. Which also explains why, if you haven't got your Social Club Membership ticket — you're too late. For now, anyway. There's no way that admission to the Club can be anything but 'tickets only', tonight, so you couldn't get in to get your ticket anyway.

The same applies to the Llanelli game next Tuesday, but there's plenty of time between now and then to make sure you are geared up. Just to remind you, even though club membership automatically gives you free membership of the social club, season ticket holders and OAP's still require a social club membership card to comply with the requirements of the Law.

250 Club

In fact, Terry Close tells me that he will probably be improving the shining hour by accepting money for the 250 Club this evening. In fact, we don't care if it becomes a 500 Club before the year is out, so if you'd like to support the Club, and have a chance of some very healthy cash prizes to boot, see him or Brian Howells.

Couple of fivers

Lucky programme number for the Launceston game was no. 507, and it was presented by Steve Prosser of 11, Oakhill Road, Mitcheldean. The same excellent judgment was shown by Mr. C. Field of 2, West View, Passage Road, Saul when he bought programme no. 1017 at the Pontypridd game last Saturday.

Nice to see that people travel from widely separated points of the County to support us. Even if they do go home with a fiver of our money in their pockets.

Bristol next

On Saturday, of course, the lads are away at Bristol, and skipper Gordon Sargent makes the point that they would be very glad of powerful and vocal support at that game. It's always a fine occasion, anyway, and in spite of Bath's 44-point win over Moseley, Bristol are still the team to beat, this year. Did you notice that they lost 35-15 to Swansea, which is almost the same result as ours was?

Next Tuesday is another great occasion with the visit of Llanelli, and I'm sure you won't want to miss that, especially as we then have to wait for Pontypool on October 5th for another first team match.

United

Not that that should send you into withdrawal symptoms. You have an excellent chance of a pipe-opener if you come along here on Saturday to watch United take on their opposite numbers from Bristol, and on October 1st, they entertain Bedford.

Plenty to look forward to.

Twickenham in style

John Bick's stupendous, sensational, hyperdraw for Christmas is now gathering momentum. The first prize will be a sinfully luxurious trip to Twickenham for the England and Wales game; door-to-door limousine travel, super seats for the match, and a positively gulttonous hamper of goodies included — all for two, of course.

There's a whole galaxy of other highly attractive prizes, as well, but in addition, anyone who sells the top prize-winning ticket will receive a bottle of Scotch to help him get over the Christmas festivities. So it's worth selling tickets, as well as buying them. See John Bick, if you'd like to get involved.

Advance notice

I'm told that there will be a Patron's evening on Thursday, October 27th. That's all the information I have at the moment, but it's a good idea to put the date in your diary, or tie a knot in your supporters' scarf, or something.

Nearer and nearer draws the time

For Patrons anyway. Please pay up and get your card receipted, or it will cease to be valid at the end of September, which is only 9 days away. You wouldn't want to have to pay at the turnstiles to see Pontypool, would you?

Tailpiece

A special occasion demands a special tailpiece, and I'm indebted to distinguished journalist Wyn Rees for providing just the right one.

On February 2nd, 1884, at the Arms Park, Cardiff changed the face of Rugby Union Football. And they did it while playing against Gloucester.

The usual format, in those days, was to play a scrum half, two 'fly halves' and three three quarters. Apparently, Cardiff only really had three acknowledged backs of this sort, which caused them some embarrassment when travelling to Cheltenham College, because one of their stalwarts wasn't able to travel.

Cardiff solved the problem by picking up a young West Country player called Frank Hancock. English he may have been, but he still gained four caps for Wales — the first being that very season — and indeed, Captained both Cardiff and Wales.

Young Hancock was good. So very good, in fact, that for the Gloucester game they decided to play four three quarters. This was the first time that the left and right wing, plus two centres, had been seen.

The experiment was successful, and although there was some controversy about it for a while, the formation became adopted very widely indeed. In fact, the only exception I can think of is the All Black 'five eighth' arrangement.

There are two interesting sidelights. One is that the match ended in a scoreless draw, which doesn't seem appropriate. The other is that Frank Hancock came from a well-known Somerset brewing family, which for a club based in the city where they brew Brains Bitter, seems entirely appropriate.

So there you are. A little bit of rugby history from the annals of the Gloucester — Cardiff fixtures.

Well — in its own, rather more minor way, tonight's game can be said to be a turning point too, marking as it does, the official demise of the old Worcester Street Changing quarters which have been a second home to so many great Gloucester players.

It all seems very fitting, somehow.

PETER ARNOLD.