



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Saturday, 29th October, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

kick-off 3.0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

0718

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back

15. T. Smith

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

*§ 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. R. Phillips

*† 4. S. Boyle

§ 5. J. Brain

*§ 6. J. Gadd

7. I. Smith

*§ 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Full Back

† 15. H. MacNeill (Capt.)

Three Quarters

14. A. Findlay

13. C. Millerchip

12. P. O'Brien

11. N. Benstead

Half Backs

*§ 10. S. Barnes

9. S. Pearson

Forwards

1. D. Mills

2. J. Webster

3. N. Herrod

4. J. Thomson

5. J. Rosier

6. S. Swaffen

7. R. Morgan

8. M. Gargan

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: R. HOURQUET (France)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
(INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.)

2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

Telephone 32088 and 34920

It's a Dark Blue Day!

The visit of the Oxford University side isn't one that old Kingsholm hands would willingly miss. It's certainly one of our valued traditional fixtures, and it would be true to say that, over the past century or so, just about all the great Dark Blues have played here.

It used to be said that Oxford University used the Gloucester game as a method of measuring their pack before taking on their old enemy from Cambridge at Twickenham. Whether that's still true, I'm in no position to judge, but for the past few seasons we've played both University sides not too long before the 'Varsity game, so that perhaps, a judgement can be formed of the relative strength of the two sides.

Looked at that way, the last two seasons are interesting. Two years ago, we suffered one of our very rare defeats, of that season, while going down 12-20 at Cambridge, while being a bit hard on Oxford by subjecting them to a 46-6 scoreline at Kingsholm. Last season, we won at Oxford by 34-6, but also beat the Light Blues 33-9.

Not that it seems to mean much — relative form isn't always the best guide when the two old rivals get to Twickenham.

Nevertheless, one thing you can be sure about, today, Oxford U. will be a strong, fit side who'll start running at kick-off, and will still be raising a gallop at final whistle. They're all very welcome, and perhaps we can offer them a post-graduate course on the Gentle Art of Rugby Football.

Nice to be back!

Enjoyed your breather have you? Ready for a good shout? Well — you'll have plenty of opportunity, because, counting today, we have a string of five home fixtures coming up — or six if you count the County.

It all starts next Wednesday — November 2nd — with a visit from the tough Glamorgan Wanderers side, who are always good value. The following Saturday offers a complete contrast, with a chance to see Rosslyn Park. Wednesday, Nov. 9th we shall have to go some to beat the phenomenon of this season's Welsh calendar, South Wales Police, and then we have the eagerly anticipated Gloucestershire v. Yorkshire encounter on the 12th. Topped up with a dose of Cheltenham on Nov. 16th, and you have quite a bill of fare.

United

Anyone who has been studying the fixture list, may well have noted that we appear to have two home games next Saturday, November 5th. While the Firsts are trying conclusions with Rosslyn Park, United have an engagement with Caerleon. The fact is that the United game will be played on the Wingate ground, so United fans will now know where to go.

On the following Monday, United are in action again, entertaining Glamorgan Wanderers — at Kingsholm, this time.

What a week!

In fact, that week looks like a fairly full one. Monday 7th, United v. Glamorgan Wanderers Tuesday 8th, the County Cup Final, and Wednesday South Wales Police. Then Glos. v. Yorkshire on Saturday. Perhaps you ought to bring your sleeping bag and make a week of it.

For the County Cup, we're confidently expecting a big influx of visitors from the Forest. Not surprising, when the two protagonists are Lydney and Berry Hill. I'm told you won't need a 'Vern Ticket' to get in, but you will be charged at normal club game rates — and with those two sides meeting in a Final, that's a bargain.

County Tickets

All being well, tickets for the County game v. Yorkshire will be on sale in the new Office, under the Grandstand, after today's game. I'm told they are being rushed up here by special courier, especially for that purpose. (Actually, it's George Wright on his bicycle).

Stand tickets only will be available, although no one has yet told me how much they'll cost. If you prefer watching your rugby from a vertical position, then it's pay at the turnstiles when you arrive, so perhaps it might be a good idea to get here a bit early, that day.

Similarly, it might not be a bad idea to get your Stand tickets early. We don't know just how many we'll get, but we do know that Thorn EMI, who are the Sponsors, so are entitled to a fair crack of the whip, have asked for a sizeable quantity — not surprising when it's a repeat of last season's final, and at Kingsholm at that — and that's without beginning to think about supporters from Bristol, and other strongholds in the County. The Yorkshire lads are sure to be here in force too.

It should be quite an occasion. Both sides have thrashed Surrey and struggled to beat Northumberland, so there won't be a lot between the sides. Your support will be very valuable — Mike Rafter will tell you just how much a good old Kingsholm roar does for the players, and I've a feeling they will need every scrap of vocal support they can get.

See you there.

All Blacks at Twickenham

Talking about tickets, with a bit of luck, we may have some news for you today about England v. New Zealand tickets. No information was available at the time of writing, but it's worth listening for any announcement over the loudspeaker system.

One thing's for sure — there won't be many of them, so better get your skates on if you fancy the trip. And why not? John Gadd looks as if he's in with a good chance.

Draw

If you don't get an All Blacks ticket, you could be compensated by winning a limousine trip to Twickenham in the Club's Grand Christmas Draw. Stand tickets, hamper appropriately filled . . . gotta be worth a flutter, quite apart from the impressive lists of runners-up prizes also on offer.

John Bick is running this draw, and he could do with some more people to sell tickets for him. Which might be interesting, because the seller of the winning ticket gets a free bottle of Scotch. Why not have a word with John?

Johnny's won a fiver!

The winner of the free fiver for a lucky programme number at the Newbridge match (ouch!) was a certain gentleman of whom you may have heard. If I say that it was Mr. R. F. Johnson, it probably wouldn't mean all that much to you, but if I write that he is better known as 'Johnny' Johnson, distinguished referee of a few years back, no doubt the penny will drop.

Apparently, he was here on official duty, observing the undoubted qualities of Alan Welsby, who for my money, put up an immaculate display that evening. But then — I'm not in Johnny Johnson's class as a judge.

The thought does occur, however, does he claim the price of a programme, as part of his expenses? If so, will he now refund it? Should he declare his five when he's putting in his claim?

Perhaps it would be safer to drink it while he's here.

Tailpiece

Talking about Johnny Johnson, one record that, I'm told, he's proud of, is that he's the only English referee to have refereed an England v. Wales match.

You'll probably remember the occasion. The French ref. was injured and had to leave the field, Johnny was running the line, and had to take over.

One footnote. When he took the whistle, England were leading. When he blew it for the last time, England had lost.

I'm all for impartiality, but you can take things too far sometimes.

PETER ARNOLD