



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORS

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester
Building Society

Wednesday, 16th November, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

023

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

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C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back

15. P. Ford

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

* 13. P. Taylor

12. C. O'Donaghue

* 11. N. Price

Half Backs

10. P. Webb

9. R. Wilmott

Forwards

*† 1. G. Sargent (Capt.)

2. K. White

3. R. Phillips

*† 4. J. Fidler

§ 5. J. Brain

* 6. P. Wood

7. D. Spencer

8. L. Cummins

REPLACEMENTS

M. Hannaford

A. Turton *

CHELTENHAM

Full Back

15. C. Minett

Three Quarters

14. M. Jones

13. P. Keegan

12. C. Gargia

11. M. Withecombe

Half Backs

10. P. Wharton

9. J. Little

Forwards

1. A. Torkoniak

2. S. Everall

3. N. Smart (Capt.)

4. G. Cornish

5. P. Waite

6. C. Scott

7. S. Masters

8. P. Poulton

REPLACEMENTS

M. Cotter

P. Brown

Referee: J. REES (Wales & Hants Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



NORMAN P. PARTRIDGE
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2 CLARENCE STREET, GLOUCESTER

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That neighbourly feeling . . .

One of the most telling arguments against a promotion and relegation based league system for Rugby Union is that it would create difficulties where clubs have strong ties with their local sides who might not qualify for the same division as they do.

Such links are important; they stimulate interest and local support, they put relative strengths and weaknesses into perspective, and they can provide some very exciting rugby, as the recent Lydney v. Berry Hill game proved once and for all.

Anyway, where local derby matches are concerned, reputations and the form book don't really count for a lot. Remember last season's opening Gloucester v. Stroud match?

Admittedly, tonight's very welcome visitors from our friendly, neighbourhood Regency Spa town haven't fared too well on recent visits to Kingsholm, losing 19-3 two years ago, and 26-6 last season, but one shouldn't read too much into that. Gloucester were lucky to come away from Cheltenham with a 3-3 draw, last year, while Cheltenham have just registered a highly creditable victory over Ebbw Vale and only just failing to beat Fylde last Saturday.

In addition, I haven't seen the Gloucester side at the time of writing, but it doesn't seem likely that Gloucester will have a full-strength side, bearing in mind commitments to the County last Saturday, South and South West Counties only last night, and (hopefully) to England on Saturday next.

All of which means we could be in for a considerable match. Whatever happens, however, it isn't easy to imagine a Gloucester season without the Cheltenham fixtures, and we doubt if there's anyone on the ground who would even contemplate the possibility.

It's always good to have the neighbours round for a party, and, as always, we welcome Cheltenham wholeheartedly.

Nice to see you gentlemen — hope you have a highly enjoyable evening, on the field and off.

Now for Middlesex

You'll have heard by now that Gloucestershire's win over Yorkshire, and Somerset's nail-biter against Middlesex at Bridgwater means that Gloucestershire now entertain Middlesex here at Kingsholm on Saturday week — November 26th. So, the burning question is — what about tickets?

A glance at the fixture list will show you that we only have tonight's game, plus the Exeter University match next Wednesday when they can go on sale. George Wright is busting a gut to get tickets printed, but with the best will in the world, he couldn't start the ball rolling until Monday morning, so it's doubtful if they will be on sale tonight. Although they may be, so keep your ears cocked for loudspeaker announcements.

One thing we can say is that the arrangements will be the same as those for Saturday last. There will be Stand tickets, but it's pay at the gate for the Ground.

David Foyle has come up with an offer to ease the situation. When tickets are available, they will be obtainable at his place of business, at Sandoe Luce Pane, 29/31 Brunswick Road, Gloucester, which might solve the problem for you. Of course, he might try to sell you a Cotswold mansion at the same time . . .

It should be quite a game. Remember Peter Butler scoring all 24 points against Middlesex in the Final at Richmond in 1976?

Students next

We seem to be coming into the Academic part of the season. We're away to Broughton Park on Saturday, but next Wednesday (23rd), Exeter University is here, and the following Wednesday (30th) Loughborough Colleges pay their annual visit. These student sides are always worth a look, because they're fit, fast and always like to run the ball. There's always the chance to see if you can spot a future star or two, as well. The first time we saw Simon Hogg, the current County full back, for example, he was playing for Exeter University. So why not come along?

G. v. C. for C. & G.

For the third match in a row, we are indebted to companies of genuine national importance for generous sponsorship at Kingsholm. The Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society can certainly make that claim, now ranking in the top twelve Societies in the Country — and that was before the recently-announced merger with the Cotswold Building Society.

At the end of 1982, C & G had assets of £1,432 million, and you might like to know that over £100 million of that can be attributed to our own Westgate Street branch alone, which is managed by Peter Bicknell, who, if he's true to form, is standing on the 25-yard line at this moment.

Assets of that order make C & G the fastest-growing Building Society in Britain, and you only have to look around you to see proof of that. They have 23 branches in Gloucestershire alone, and approaching 140 country-wide.

Cheltenham and Gloucester have always been prominent as supporters of the local community. They sponsor a 'play bus' in Cheltenham, and you may remember that they made a significant contribution to our Quincentenary celebrations by making their magnificent Tudor Room available for public viewing, and by persuading their Westgate Street staff (including Peter Bicknell) to dress in mediaeval costume for the period leading up to Charter Day.

With that sort of background, it's not too surprising that their generosity extends to sponsoring a match at Kingsholm, and what could be more appropriate for the Cheltenham and Gloucester to choose the Gloucester v. Cheltenham game?

Well — we know who our friends are, so if you want to salt some hard-earned cash away, or if you need help buying a house, perhaps you'll remember their gesture tonight.

Be that as it may, we're very grateful for their generosity, and hope everyone has a thoroughly good evening.

Just one problem. Which team will they be shouting for?

Coach to Leicester

They tell me that there are still some seats available on the Social Club's coach to the Leicester game on Saturday, December 3rd, which is now only a couple of weeks away. If you fancy the trip — which might get you out of some of the Christmas shopping — then I suggest you enquire in the Clubhouse.

And you wouldn't want to go on that trip without nailing your colours to the mast, would you? Very handsome ties and badges are also available, and you could attend to that little matter while you're booking your seat.

Christmas Draw

As this is such a local occasion, I make no apology for mentioning John Bick's Christmas Draw again. The first prize is a luxury, once-in-a-lifetime trip to Twickenham for two for England v. Wales. Limousine travel, and diet-shattering hamper included. There's also a handy transistor, a meal for two at a well-known hostelry, and enough Christmas fare to float a small yacht.

There are plenty of ticket sellers around — although there's always room for more, if you fancy winning a bottle of Scotch for selling the winning ticket.

Our lucky programme fiver often goes to someone from Cheltenham. Why not a draw prize, too?

Tailpiece

The name 'Roy Marchant' is one which everyone associates with long years of service to Cheltenham RFC. This year, he's also Mayor of Cheltenham, and C & G have invited him to be their guest tonight. When I spoke to him over the weekend, he wasn't sure if he could make it, but we all naturally, hope he can.

Of course, we're fairly used to Mayors at Kingsholm, but it's nice to see one from our neighbours here. If you have managed to come, Sir, many welcomes from all of us.

PETER ARNOLD.