



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

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GLOUCESTER v. EBBW VALE

TONIGHT'S SPONSORS

B.J.B. CONSULTANTS, 50 London Road, Stroud

Wednesday, 7th December, 1983

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

The Winner of today's
Official
Programme
Draw will
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145

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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. M. Preedy
*†	2. S. Mills
	3. R. Phillips
*†	4. S. Boyle
*	5. J. Orwin
*	6. P. Wood
	7. I. Smith
*§	8. M. Teague
	REPLACEMENTS
	R. Wilmott
	D. Spencer

EBBW VALE

	Full Back
15.	D. Best
	Three Quarters
14.	B. Thomas
13.	D. Parry
12.	S. Lewis
11.	R. Denmead
	Half Backs
10.	R. Owen
9.	K. Norkett
	Forwards
1.	J. Walters
2.	I. Watkins
3.	M. Sibthorpe
4.	J. Williams
5.	D. Fryer
6.	G. Davies
7.	C. Dennehy
8.	J. Howells
	REPLACEMENTS
	N. Osborne
	D. Boucher

Referee: G. THOMPSON (Bristol Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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The Sting!

It still stings. Last year, in a season when Gloucester didn't exactly come up smelling of violets, Ebbw Vale was the club which dug the deepest mire.

It was arguably the worst week for Gloucester since Charles II, (who probably played for Richmond), pulled the City walls down. On Wednesday, October 6th, Pontypool put 52 points on us, then on Wednesday, October 13th, Ebbw Vale chipped in with another 45, against Gloucester's 16. If you had forgotten all that — I don't blame you, and I wish I could.

The one glimmer of light about that week was that both of those games were played away, and to be fair, we did beat 'Quins 16-9 between them. The last time Ebbw met Gloucester at Kingsholm, they lost 23-0.

This season, like Gloucester, results have been mixed for our visitors. I've noticed some good results, though their old rivals, Maesteg, beat them on Saturday, and our friends from Cheltenham are still pointing out that they had a good win over Ebbw Vale too.

All of which could, of course, be counter-productive for Gloucester. Ebbw will certainly want to redress the balance. Anyway, form doesn't always mean a lot when Gloucester are playing ancient enemies from the Principality.

If any of you were on last Saturday's coach trip, you may find that there is something of a 'I have been here before', feeling about tonight's game. Ebbw Vale colours are red, white and green, which are, of course, Leicester's colours too, so don't think that you have lost a couple of days, somewhere.

Personally, I don't care whether they play in pink with lace trimmings. Ebbw Vale are always very welcome visitors, because we always know that a good game is in the offing. We hope our visitors enjoy themselves and that they approve of our new complex.

Nice to see you again boys.

Early Bath

On Saturday, we have one of the most keenly anticipated games at Kingsholm for quite a while. Bath can certainly claim to be the English team of the season, and you may remember that it was their 7-7 drawn result at Kingsholm, last season, which finally sealed Gloucester's fate in the Merit Table, and therefore, as regards this season's John Player Cup.

The Merit Table considerations are still pertinent, of course, but you could also regard the game as a sort of mini-rehearsal for the County Final in March. Not a game you'll want to miss if you can help it, particularly as it may give us a sight of young Simpson, who would appear to be the character who kept John Gadd out of the All Blacks game.

United

The next two games at Kingsholm, after that, will both be starring the United, who will be entertaining Coventry on Saturday, 17th and Newport on the 21st. Always worth watching, and we recommend you do just that, if you can be spared from the Christmas shopping.

Yuletide matches

Talking of the Festive Season, it's certainly not too early to tell you about our own particular Christmas celebrations, here at Kingsholm. It must be years since there was a fixture on Christmas Eve, when we entertain Plymouth, who also had a lot to do with Gloucester's showing in the Merit Table last year.

It's an odd day, in some respects, because the usual Christmas festivities must have a bearing, for ourselves, and our opponents. Naturally, the Plymouth lads won't want to hang about too long, and you'll have your own family commitments too, so the idea is to kick off at 2.00 p.m., which should give you time for a quiet drink, and still be home in fine fettle for the evening. So don't get caught out, and roll in half-way through the second half.

On Boxing Day, we have the return of the Lydney game, which didn't take place at Christmas last season because of the one-off Old Merchant Taylors centenary match. If you can shake off the effects of the Christmas pud, it's a good way to get the pipes working again.

Similarly, if you would like a run out on New Year's Eve, the lads will be travelling to Bridgend, which isn't too far to travel, at the end of the annual holiday, remembering that you'll probably have until Tuesday to get over it.

Moseley is also a traditional fixture at New Year, and they'll be here on Monday, January 2nd — even taken in isolation, that's a good prospect.

So we probably have the strongest bill of fare for years, over Christmas and the New Year. Hope to see you at some of the games, at least.

Thanks to Tyre Sales

Thanks to Tyre Sales Limited of Kingsholm Road for their generous and imaginative sponsorship exercise. Presenting the Lucky Number Fiver, at each home game is certainly a novel way to support us, and also to advertise their services regularly. We wish them well of their venture, and hope it has all the beneficial results it deserves.

One beneficial result has already been achieved by David Brookfield, of 34, St. John's Avenue, Churchdown, who bought the winning programme at the Loughborough Colleges match, a week ago tonight.

The first 'free fiver' under the new Tyre Sales system, it may have been, but I don't suppose he'll have it framed on that account.

County Final news already!

I was talking to a very long-standing Gloucester supporter, the other day, who said that the Gloucestershire and Somerset County Final on March 31st, in the hallowed halls of Twickenham, put him in mind of an occasion when he attended a Lancashire v. Yorkshire 'Wars of the Roses' cricket match at Old Trafford.

Apparently, he was told, at an early stage of the proceedings, to keep quiet.

"Thee keep out of it lad!", he was told, "It's none of thy business!"

I can quite see what he means. Gloucestershire v. Somerset at Twickenham is a family occasion. Anyone can come and watch, but it's a private fight, and everyone may not join in.

British Rail are already taking that view. They're usually pretty quick off the mark, on these occasions, but to have started doing the necessary a good four months before the event, is quite a thing, even for them.

Timings etc. have obviously not been worked out yet, but I can tell you that the fare will be £6.00 for adults, and £4.00 for juniors. More news as it comes in.

Watch this space.

The draw

The Grand Christmas Draw is now coming to its climax. It will be drawn on Friday, December 16th, in the Social Club. Gloucester aren't playing at home on the 17th, so why not shift your weekly religious observance to Friday night, that week, and thereby help the bar takings.

John Bick asks me to remind the ticket sellers that tonight is the night that all monies and unsold tickets should be returned, so if you haven't done so yet, I hope you've got them with you.

Of course, that doesn't mean you can't still buy the odd ticket or two. See John Bick, and increase your chances of winning that limousine trip for two to Twickenham for the England v. Wales match. Or you could win a meal for two at John's favourite hostelry, or perhaps perk up your Christmas celebrations with one of the rather more vinous or spirituous prizes which are also up for grabs.

Tailpiece

This simply can't go on. Either the Gloucester City Council is going to have to stop holding its full Council Meetings on Wednesdays, or Gloucester RFC are going to have to shift their evening game night.

There are at least six of us, counting Members and Officers, who aren't here tonight, because we're deliberating in the Council Chamber. Which, knowing the characters concerned, has a highly disadvantageous effect on the beer sales.

There ought to be a by-law.

PETER ARNOLD.