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Saturday, 14th January, 1984

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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GLOUCESTER 22		LEICESTER 21	
Cherry & White			
Full Back		Full Back	
15. P. Webb		† O. W. Hare	
Three Quarters		Three Quarters	
14. D. Morgan		N. B. Evans	
*§ 13. R. Mogg		M. I. Bates	
* 12. P. Taylor		† L. C. Woodward	
* 11. N. Price		K. K. Williams	
Half Backs		Half Backs	
10. M. Hamlin		† J. L. Cusworth	
*§ 9. S. Baker		† I. N. Youngs	
Forwards		Forwards	
*† 1. G. Sargent (Capt.)		A. M. Whitcombe	
*† 2. S. Mills		B. C. Tressler	
*† 3. P. Blakeway		C. W. Richardson	
* 4. J. Orwin		D. N. Joyce	
*† 5. J. Fidler		E. M. Foukes-Arnold	
*§ 6. J. Gadd		F. C. R. Tebbutt	
7. D. Spencer		G. D. Richards	
*§ 8. M. Teague		H. A. Marriott	
REPLACEMENTS		REPLACEMENTS	
R. Fowke		D. Black	
N. Scrivens		C. Williams	

Referee: R. PARKER (N. Mids)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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FIRST XV FIXTURES

1983	10	Bath	...	H	16-8
Sept. 1	Stroud	...	H	28-6	
3	Swansea	...	A	16-46	
10	Coventry	...	H	19-14	
14	Launceston	...	H	20-0	
17	Pontypridd	...	H	24-12	
21	Cardiff	...	H	10-26	
24	Bristol	...	A	19-12	
27	Llanelli	...	H	7-7	
Oct. 1	Bedford	...	A	6-14	
5	Pontypool	...	H	12-23	
8	Harlequins	...	A	16-3	
12	Newbridge	...	H	16-36	
15	Newport	...	H	3-7	
22	Clifton	...	A	49-6	
26	Abertillery	...	A	9-6	
29	Oxford U.	...	H	45-12	
Nov. 2	Glamorgan W.	...	H	33-3	
5	Roslyn Park	...	H	30-10	
9	S.W. Police	...	H	9-13	
12	Cheltenham	...	H	21-16	
19	Broughton Park	...	A	25-24	
23	Exeter U.	...	H	Can.	
26	London Irish	...	H	Can.	
30	Loughborough Col.	...	H	23-9	
Dec. 3	Leicester	...	A	20-30	
7	Ebbw Vale	...	H	14-9	
10	Bath	...	H	16-8	
17	Coventry	...	A	18-6	
21	Newport	...	H	20-15	
24	Plymouth	...	H	7-15	
26	Lydney	...	H	13-24	
31	Bridgend	...	A		
1984	2	Moseley	...	H	10-6
Jan. 7	London Scottish	...	A		
14	Leicester	...	H		
21	Wasps	...	H		
28	Salisbury	...	H		
Feb. 3	Bristol	...	H		
11	Bath	...	A		
17	Nottingham	...	H		
25	Liverpool	...	H		
Mar. 2	Northampton	...	A		
10	Richmond	...	H		
17	Orrell	...	A		
24	Cheltenham	...	A		
31	Moseley	...	A		
Apr. 7	Launceston	...	A		
14	Neath	...	H		
19	Lydney	...	A		
21	Headingley	...	H		
23	Birkenhead Park	...	H		
28	Exeter	...	H		

UNITED XV FIXTURES

1983	10	Bath	...	—	—	—	Away
Sept. 3	Broughton Park	...	—	—	—	—	Home
5	Newport H.S.O.B.	...	—	—	—	—	Home
10	Coventry	...	—	—	—	—	Away
17	Pontypool	...	—	—	—	—	Away
20	Cheltenham	...	—	—	—	—	Home
24	Bristol	...	—	—	—	—	Home
27	Glamorgan Wanderers	...	—	—	—	—	Away
Oct. 1	Bedford	...	—	—	—	—	Home
8	Richmond	...	—	—	—	—	Home
10	Lutonians	...	—	—	—	—	Away
15	Newport	...	—	—	—	—	Away
22	Ebbw Vale	...	—	—	—	—	Away
Nov. 5	Caerleon	...	—	—	—	—	Home
7	Glamorgan Wanderers	...	—	—	—	—	Home
12	Newport H.S.O.B.	...	—	—	—	—	Away
19	London Irish	...	—	—	—	—	Away
Dec. 3	Leicester	...	—	—	—	—	Home
10	Bath	...	—	—	—	—	Away
17	Coventry	...	—	—	—	—	Home
21	Newport	...	—	—	—	—	Home
24	Plymouth	...	—	—	—	—	Away
31	Bridgend	...	—	—	—	—	Home
1984	7	Wasps	...	—	—	—	Home
Jan. 14	Leicester	...	—	—	—	—	Away
21	Cleve	...	—	—	—	—	Away
28	Bath	...	—	—	—	—	Home
Feb. 4	Bristol	...	—	—	—	—	Away
11	Bath	...	—	—	—	—	Home
18	Moseley	...	—	—	—	—	Away
25	Roslyn Park	...	—	—	—	—	Away
Mar. 3	Northampton	...	—	—	—	—	Home
7	Cheltenham	...	—	—	—	—	Away
10	Nottingham	...	—	—	—	—	Away
17	Lutonians	...	—	—	—	—	Home
19	Lutonians	...	—	—	—	—	Home
24	Bridgend Sports	...	—	—	—	—	Away
31	Moseley	...	—	—	—	—	Home



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The first of a memorable pair

Two years ago, Gloucester were acknowledged as the team of the English season. Last year, Bristol could make the same claim, as today's visitors, remembering the John Player Cup Final might well admit. This year, both Bath and Bristol can make a case, although Gloucester have beaten both of them.

Only two sides can challenge the claims for West Country superiority, and we have both of them at Kingsholm in the next week or so — Wasps next week, and Leicester today. Games against the Tigers have always been memorable events in the Kingsholm calendar, even before the present generation of star players, so while they are no doubt very welcome wherever they go, perhaps we value their visits more than most.

If you simply look at scorelines, the omens don't look good for Gloucester. Two seasons ago, we won at Leicester by 12 points to 9, but the Kingsholm match, that season was a victim of the mini ice age we suffered. Last season Leicester won 21-10 here, and 23-9 at Leicester, which at least had the merit of being consistent. In December, Leicester beat us 30-20 at Leicester, but even hardened Tiger supporters were saying that the score didn't really reflect the play. So today — we'll see.

Some people, recently, have been saying that if you want to pick a successful England side, you should pick the Gloucester forwards, and the Leicester backs. If you weren't at the England Trial last Saturday, then take it from me, that occasion did nothing to disprove that theory. Seems a pity that the combination couldn't be selected to play someone. That would be a game worth watching.

So, one way and another, we have even more reason than usual to welcome the famous Tigers to Kingsholm today. We hope they have a great time, and everyone will be doing their best to make sure that they do.

Well done the lads!

I quote from John Taylor, writing in the 'Mail on Sunday' last week. Commenting on the Trial, he wrote: "The England pack won the battle up front."

Well — all I can say is that he disagreed with everyone I heard in Stand 'D' or in the bar afterwards, and most people were thoroughly uncommitted beforehand. I also have it on first-hand authority, that he disagreed with some of the blokes who were actually playing too.

Of course, John Taylor knows all about Gloucester forwards. He did, after all, play in that famous London Welsh side which lost to Gloucester in the very first John Player Cup semi-final of all

All matters of opinion apart, and whatever the Selectors make of it all, I can assure you that our lads did us proud.

They fought the England pack to a standstill, had the ball over the line twice, only to be brought back by the referee. Even in the dying seconds, they came perilously close to scoring the winning try.

I heard several people refer to Mike Teague as 'the man of the match', John Gadd cleaned up everything in sight, the front row were ferocious, and John Fidler gave Bainbridge more and more trouble as the game progressed.

Well done the Magnificent Six. We're all very proud of you, and we may never see such an occasion again.

And before anyone accuses me of being 'anti-Press', I'll add that the other reports I saw of the game, including those in the 'Sunday Telegraph', 'Sunday Times' and 'Daily Mail' were very fair.

Wasps next!

As previously mentioned, our next little festivity involves Wasps, here next Saturday. At the time of writing they're the only unbeaten first-class side in the country, which is something which we might just do something about.

Please note, however, that the following Saturday, we shall not, after all, have the pleasure of entertaining Sale, who are still involved in the John Player. When you get mid-season hiccups like this, the poor fixture secretary has to settle for what he can get, and the home Sale game has been replaced by an away game against Fylde, so there's no point in coming along to Kingsholm.

You can, however, take some consolation from the fact that you only have to wait six days after that to see Bristol, here on Friday, February 3rd.

That Auckland game

It won't be news, by now, that Gloucester take on the mighty Auckland side — who beat the Lions — on February 14th at 7.00 p.m. You have probably also absorbed the fact that it will be an 'all pay' match, because Auckland, not unreasonably, need a hefty guarantee.

'All pay' doesn't mean 'all ticket', but we'd advise that you do get tickets beforehand, partly to make things easier on the night, and partly because we are expecting a very big demand. Centre Stand seats will cost £2.00, and will be reserved for Patrons until January 22nd. Wing Stand are £1.50. We're sorry, but it won't be possible to make any concessions for OAP's and Juniors on those seats, but Ground tickets will be available at 60p for those two groups of people, while everyone else will be asked to pay £1.20. Perhaps it's worth pointing out that these are 'normal' prices, with no mark-up for the occasion.

Tickets will be available from the Office, of course, but also from David Foyle at Sandoe Luce Panes in Brunswick Road — or by post — and also from Gordon Hudson in St. Aldate Street, and Alan Brinn in Barton Street. You might also like to know that Messrs. Haden and Whetton are definitely in the touring party. The game is part of what is virtually a world tour for the New Zealand Provincial side. They play two games in France, one in Wales (Swansea), Gloucester and a West Hartlepool President's XV in England. They then go on to overawe an American side on their way home.

... and talking of tickets

I'm told that our allocation of International tickets isn't exactly going to cause a glut. Our total supply for the French game is eight, and they've already been allocated. There will almost certainly have to be a ballot for Wales tickets, but, with a bit of luck, everyone who has applied for Ireland tickets ought to get something.

But don't hold us to it.

Anyway, there's not much point in badgering David Foyle or Terry Tandy about it.

Many happy returns!

Once again, we have the pleasure of expressing our gratitude to Sandoe Luce Panes for sponsoring an important game. David Foyle, who is a partner in the Company, when he's not selling tickets for Gloucester matches, couldn't remember whether this is the fourth or fifth year they've done so, but he's particularly pleased about it, because one of his Partners is a Patron of another little club about 35 miles down the A38, which seems very ecumenical of them.

You'll know Sandoe Luce Panes as one of the leading Estate Agencies in the area, with nine branches, situated from Yate to Cheltenham. You might not be so aware that they also run a very active Building Surveying service, that they have a thriving Commercial and agricultural property side, and that if you have any family heirlooms (like a complete collection of GRFC programmes), they will be glad to value and dispose of them for you through their Fine Art showroom at Wotton-under-Edge.

It occurs to me, however, that if you have need of any of these services, it helps if you know something about the company which is going to handle things for you beforehand. And any company which has the good taste and acumen to sponsor the Gloucester v. Leicester must have quite a lot going for them.

The Company particularly ask me to wish everyone a thoroughly happy afternoon. Sentiments which are heartily reciprocated by all of us.

Stop Press

The news about the England squad arrived just in time for a brief mention. Hearty congratulations to the six chaps involved, and we hope it proves the stepping stone to higher things.

Pity it had to be on the day of the Wasps game. But, as someone said, "You can't have it all ways!"

Tailpiece

Crossing the car park, in monsoon conditions, before our January 2nd game, we saw a sticker in a car back window:—SUPPORT MOSELEY — ENGLAND'S PREMIER RUGBY UNION CLUB.

"Ah well!" said my mate "At least they've got a sense of humour!"

PETER ARNOLD.