



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. NOTTINGHAM

Friday, 17th February, 1984

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

The Winner of today's
Official
Programme 908
Draw will
receive £5 from

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	P. Webb
	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. K. White
*	3. R. Pascall
*	4. J. Orwin
*†	5. J. Fidler
*§	6. J. Gadd
	7. D. Spencer
*§	8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

S. Parsloe *
M. Longstaff

NOTTINGHAM

	Full Back
*	15. G. Hartley
	Three Quarters
*	14. S. Holdstock
*	13. M. Northard
*	12. T. Bennett
*	11. D. Holdstock
	Half Backs
*	10. S. Hodgkinson
*	9. K. Murphy
	Forwards
*	1. J. Ward
*	2. B. Moore
*	3. M. Grindle
*	4. P. Nixon
†	5. N. Mantell
*	6. P. Cook (Capt.)
*	7. G. Rees
	8. G. Stokes

REPLACEMENTS

P. Thornley *
C. Gray

Referee: J. Pritchard (Warwickshire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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Tying 'em up in Notts

We weren't the only people to have trouble with the fog, last Tuesday. It was a question of 'lead kindly light amid th' encircling gloom' at Nottingham, too, where our visitors, tonight, at last managed to play their much-delayed John Player match against Stourbridge. They won, and now go on to play our old rivals, Moseley in the fourth round. We wish them the best of British. If they can win, it's more than we could do in the Final, a couple of years ago.

The lads from the Reddings would do well not to underestimate the opposition. Nottingham may not be as fashionable as some Midland clubs, but they can spring a few surprises, if they're given half a chance. In that context, you may remember that they beat Gloucester at Nottingham, last season, by 7 points to 3. The previous season, in October, they came to Kingsholm and lost 20-7, in an entertaining game.

They do come up with some interesting players, too. About the first time I saw them, they had a promising young full back called Hare — which sounds like the first line of a limerick, but I'll resist the temptation.

One of the nice things about playing Nottingham is that there's nothing on it. No Merit Table considerations. No rivals for International honours. No long tradition of rivalry. No Anglo-Welsh 'needle'. Nothing but a good, old fashioned, honest game of Rugby Football against respected opponents.

So you're very welcome, Nottingham. I think this is the first time we've played under lights, and we all hope you enjoy the experience — indeed that you enjoy everything, this evening.

(NOTE: I deny all responsibility for the fact that Nottingham has a suburb called 'Arnold').

Pity about the fog

It was a tragedy that the fog ruined the Auckland match, from a spectator's point of view. It should have been — and indeed, was from many standpoints — one of the biggest nights for years at Kingsholm, but as so often seems to happen, the luck was against us.

I spent a long time talking to Auckland players and officials, after the match, and was specifically asked to thank everyone who braved the weather and turned up, knowing they were only going to see half a game at best.

The Kiwis took that very much to heart, and regard it as a great compliment.

"We know all about the Gloucester Club, in New Zealand," I was told, "And Kingsholm must be one of the most famous club grounds in the world. It was a great pleasure playing here."

They can't say fairer than that. But it was no more than you would expect from such a great bunch of blokes.

Phil's back where he belongs

One chap the Kiwis didn't have the pleasure (?) of playing against was Philip Blakeway, prevented from taking part by his recall to the England place which is so rightfully his. Many congratulations from us, and I wouldn't like to be the poor Irishman who has to prop against him.

One or two (or even three) Gloucester players, who I don't need to name, must be regarded as desperately unlucky not to get their chance, and I must confess, that the logic of some of the selection escapes me.

All we can say, as so often before, is 'Keep plugging chaps. Your chance has got to come sometime.'

I hope.

County Final Tickets

We now have full details of the tickets available for the Gloucestershire v. Somerset County Final on March 31st. The place: Twickenham. The time 3.00 p.m.

If you're one of the many people who enjoys his Rugby standing up, you can get in for £2.00 (Juniors £1.00) Unreserved ringside seats are £3.00, and unreserved stand seats are £4.00. Juniors can have seats in either of those two categories for £2.00.

If however, you are tempted to go the whole hog — and why not? — you can have a reserved seat in the lower West or East Stand for £5.00.

You wouldn't have thought that there was any difficulty in getting tickets, but you would do everyone a favour if you did acquire yours from the Club. We do, after all, get a percentage of the money raised this way, and why shouldn't Gloucester get a share of the gate; if you like to look at it that way?

Behind the stand, as usual.

Incidentally, when we were at the Bath game, last week, I noticed that they were selling tickets as fast as if there were a free pint with each one. They're even running their own train!

We wouldn't want to be outshouted by the Somerset contingent, would we?

Travel

Talking of trains, you will remember that British Rail is running a 'Special' to the Final and you can get full information from the Travel Centre at the Station.

Andy Mitchell will naturally be running a Patrons coach, but to keep the price down to about £3.00, it will leave Kingsholm at 10.00 a.m., stop for a noggin, and come straight back home, after the match.

The Social Club is happy to run as many coaches as it takes. Ask John Beaman in the Clubhouse, for details.

Coming shortly

A week tomorrow, we are expecting the Liverpool side to drop in for a natter and a noggin. That, of course, means Mike Slemen, and even if he is (like some other people I could mention) out of favour with the England selectors, he's still one of the most attractive players in the game to watch. Remember, too, that they beat us last year, 18-4, so they're not to be taken lightly.

The following Saturday, United take on Northampton, which could be a good alternative if you're fed up with the International scene.

Just a reminder, if the fog prevented you from reading your programme on Tuesday, that the away game at Moseley, scheduled for March 31st, has been rearranged for the following Wednesday, to avoid the clash with the County Final. This was at Moseley's suggestion, they preferring to take on a full Gloucester side, rather than one emasculated by County Calls. Very nice of them, I reckon.

Sponsors to come

As usual, we shall be using the last home game of the season — Exeter on April 28th — to express our appreciation to our generous Sponsors and Advertisers, who contribute so greatly to the well-being of the Club. Looking down the list, supplied by Peter Denham, I note that we still have a very interesting set of Sponsors to come, and I thought you might be interested.

The Richmond game is to be sponsored by British Telecom, followed by Babcock-Moxey, who are patronising the Saracens match. Farm Plan are then completing a memorable triple by taking on the Neath game.

All very gratifying.

Tailpiece

Did you see that our old mate Peter Kingston is turning out for Pontypool?
It's a bit like Margaret Thatcher joining the Militant Tendency.

PETER ARNOLD.