



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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## GLOUCESTER v. RICHMOND

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Saturday, 10th March, 1984

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### TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

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**TELECOM**

#### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	P. Webb
	Three Quarters
14.	J. Breeze
* 13.	P. Taylor
*§ 12.	R. Mogg
* 11.	N. Price
	Half Backs
10.	M. Hamlin
*§ 9.	S. Baker
	Forwards
*† 1.	G. Sargent (Capt.)
*† 2.	S. Mills
*† 3.	P. Blakeway
*† 4.	S. Boyle
*† 5.	J. Fidler
*§ 6.	J. Gadd
	7. D. Spencer
*§ 8.	M. Teague

#### REPLACEMENTS

R. Wilmott  
D. Watling

#### RICHMOND

	Full Back
16.	A. Hampel
	Three Quarters
15.	B. Roxburgh
14.	D. Guyatt
† 12.	N. Preston
11.	K. Bassom
	Half Backs
10.	M. Humberstone
9.	S. Kelly
	Forwards
1.	J. Thorn
2.	T. Evans
3.	J. Probyn
4.	M. Hess
5.	M. Slagter (Capt.)
6.	A. Peck
7.	P. Williams
8.	W. Biddell

#### REPLACEMENTS

J. Meadows  
H. Stevenson

Referee: A. ABRAHAMS (E. Midlands Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



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### **Fireworks from Richmond?**

Richmond are the first London Club we've had the pleasure of welcoming to Kingsholm since Rosslyn Park on November 5th — and that particular squib, while not exactly damp, was comprehensively extinguished by 30 points to 10.

It isn't usual for us country folk to have so few opportunities to admire the gentlemen from the Big City, but you'll remember that London Irish had to be sacrificed for the sake of the County Semi Final, and Wasps were a victim of the wet weather.

In fact, Richmond's record against Gloucester, in recent years, is probably more fondly remembered in Surrey than it is in the Severn Vale. They gave us a tanking last season, by 24 points to 7, and we still remember the pair of draws, a few seasons ago in the John Player.

Today's another day, however, and past results are rarely a true guide when two teams with such a long record of fixtures are opposed to one another — as witness the Northampton result, eight days ago.

It's also worth pointing out that Richmond Vikings are about the only side in the country who have put it across Gloucester United with any regularity, of recent years, which argues strength in depth.

Anyway, Richmond are always very welcome. They entertain us well when we go there, and we hope to do the same today.

### **Thanks to Telecom**

Somehow, you don't expect British Telecom to sponsor rugby matches, but there's no earthly reason why they shouldn't, and we're very grateful to the Gloucester Area for their generosity.

One surprising thing they told us is that there has been a telephone exchange in Berkeley Street for longer than Gloucester RFC has been at Kingsholm — since 1887, in fact, four years before the Club bought the ground.

At that time there were just 20 customers, compared with the 30,000 lines which the exchange serves now. Of course, the exchange has expanded a bit too, in spite of modern technology. It now fills the block all the way from Berkeley Street to Bull Lane.

Telecom's Roger Lindsay comments "As with teams on the rugby field success comes from moving forward" (wish he'd tell the England team that), and Telecom has certainly made great progress in their approach, since the split from the Post Office took place. Who would have thought, for example, that you would be able to buy a new telephone instrument in Debenhams? Or pay your telephone bill there, for that matter. You can do just that, however, and it's only when you visit the Telecom shop in the basement — opened by Noel Edmunds, last November — that you realise what a wide range of colours and styles are available in telephones these days.

Another advantage is that, being located in a large store enables Telecom to accept the full range of credit card facilities on all transactions.

If you're a business user, however, you'd do better to visit the Business Centre in the Telecom headquarters in Great Western Road. There, you can see and talk about all the latest innovations in switchboard systems, and the like. And, believe you me, there's a great deal to discuss.

The past decade has seen more development in communications than the previous century or so. Our evidence is that our own Telephone Area is certainly not dragging its feet.

After all, they do have the imagination to sponsor the Gloucester v. Richmond game.

### **Don't blame Phil!**

You'd think two newspapers from the same stable could get their act together, wouldn't you? Writing in the 'Daily Mail' about the French match, our old sparring partner, Terry O'Connor commented "Phil Blakeway failed to dominate Dospital." Conversely, John Taylor, in the 'Mail on Sunday' wrote "Phil Blakeway crucified Dospital."

They can't both be right, and having watched the game on the box, and spoken to people who went to Paris, I incline to the latter view. Philip certainly won one penalty for England — missed unfortunately — and must be the one player whose place is comparatively safe, if anyone's is, which is doubtful.

Well done, Phil! It wasn't your fault.  
I'm not going to suggest that the Selectors reconsider one or two of our lads, for the Welsh game. Every time I do, it seems to put the kiss of death on them.

#### **Can anybody out there hear us?**

The invariably genial Terry Tandy is getting just a little narked about the number of people who keep informing him that they can't hear the loudspeaker announcements in the main Stand. As he says, "Most Officials sit there themselves, so do you think we don't know?" Which seems a fair point.

The problem is that Graham Spring, who does the announcements, and therefore the microphone, is also in the Stand — the Press Box, actually. If the loudspeakers are too loud, you get feedback, which, for the technically illiterate, like me, means a high-pitched screech, which goes through the skull like a French Centre goes through an England back row. And that's not to be encouraged if you've had a heavy session the night before.

The installers are working on the problem, and will, no doubt, sort it before long.  
Perhaps they might seek advice from today's sponsors.

#### **Not long now**

The County Final is now only three weeks away, and if you fancy going to Twickenham on one of the coaches, perhaps you should do something about it.

John Beaman is running trips from the Social Club, so ask him after the game. Andy Mitchell will be organising his usual Patrons coach, which will leave early, and come straight back after the match, to keep the price down.

British Rail is running a train, for £6.00 a head, so ask at the station about that one.

As far as tickets are concerned, they're all available today, ranging from £2.00 standing tickets, to £5.00 reserved seats in the Lower West and East stands, with appropriate reductions for Juniors. So take your pick.

#### **From here on in**

Next Saturday, the lads are away to Orrell, which is a fair trek, even for Gloucester supporters, but you don't have to wait a full fortnight for your next 'fix', because we are away to Cheltenham on Wednesday, March 21st. I saw the South Wales Police match at the Prince of Wales Stadium, and was impressed by the show Cheltenham put up, so perhaps Gloucester should not take things lightly.

The following Saturday, March 24th, we have Saracens at Kingsholm, which would be a good pipe-opener for Twickenham the following week.

Incidentally, we're not having much success, at the moment, in rearranging the postponed Bristol game, the ethnic minority in the woodpile, so to speak, being Bristol's excellent Cup run, which we would be the last people to begrudge them. Efforts continue, however, and there's every hope that something can be organised before we hang our scarves up for the Summer.

On the United front, there's only one game in prospect, as far as I know, and that's the fixture against Luctonians on Monday March 19th. Should be worth seeing.

#### **Best of luck!**

Talking of Bristol, we wish them every success in their Cup game, next Saturday, and would say the same to Bath in their game with the much-fancied Wasps side. Wouldn't it be great if the two West Country teams met in the Final — especially after the County Final!

#### **Tailpiece**

Did you notice Reg Collins appearing twice in 'Bygone Gloucester' the other week?  
Once in the Old Cents. rugby team, and once in a Soccer team.  
Sounds like a case for a court martial to me.

PETER ARNOLD