



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

## GLOUCESTER v. SARACENS

Saturday, 24th March, 1984

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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

157

**Tyre Sales**  
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### GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

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

#### REPLACEMENTS

M. Hannaford  
G. Mann

### SARACENS

	Full Back
15.	N. Marmont <i>R. FERRIS</i>
	Three Quarters
*	14. A. Phillips
*	13. S. Hancock
*	12. <del>D. Gregory</del> <i>N. MARMONT</i>
	11. <del>R. Ferris</del> <i>P. ANTHONY</i>
	Half Backs
10.	C. S. Wright
*	9. F. Steadman
	Forwards
	1. C. H. Wright
*	2. S. Jones
*	3. M. Grier
	4. N. Akhurst
*	5. A. Jasczsak
	6. P. Sherriff
	7. G. Mansfield
*	8. A. Keay (Capt.)

#### REPLACEMENTS

D. Catchpole  
~~P. Anthony~~ *S. FULGAR*

Referee: V. HOSKINS (Devon Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

\* County



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### **Touch of Spring**

I'm not suggesting that we plant primroses round the touchline, or anything like that, but, in some ways, it's good to see the Spring approaching, this year.

Our interest in the John Player, though fervent, is academic, most of our confrontations with traditional rivals are behind us, and even the International season, with its traumas and the sense of injustice which most of us feel, is a thing of the past, and perhaps thankfully so.

And, to paraphrase the Poet — if Saracens come, can Spring be far behind?

With great respect, we play stronger sides than Saracens. We play a whole clutch of games with more 'needle'. Local rivalries aren't involved, and there are no selectorial implications in today's game, next week's County Final side having been announced. In fact, all we have today is an honest-to-goodness game of Rugby Football between two sides that have been playing matches for years, and who enjoy each other's company.

All this is not to imply any lack of commitment, or any denigration of the relative skills of the two sides. Saracens will undoubtedly play their usual game, and have beaten some pretty good sides this season. They're always worth watching and they enjoy their Rugby.

Who can ask more? They're always welcome, and we hope they have a thoroughly enjoyable day at Kingsholm.

### **Last orders please!**

Next Saturday, of course, is the local festival which has, after a wait of some four months, been transferred to Twickenham. If you're intending to grace the County Final with your presence, then it's worth pointing out that all tickets for that game are held on a 'sale or return' basis, so this is your last opportunity to get yours from the Club, and therefore give us the benefit of a discount.

Prices range all the way from £5.00 for reserved seats in the East and West stands, to £2.00 for standing places.

I'm told that the British Rail trip is heavily booked, though not quite full, as yet. I'm also told that BR haven't found it possible to run an extra train, this time, although they will get you to Paddington and back by normal service trains, at the £6.00 price which applies for the 'special'. Bearing in mind that it's a bit of a trek from Paddington to Twickenham, you'd be well advised to nip into the station a bit quick, if you're thinking of going along by rail.

The last I heard — two weeks ago — John Beaman was working on his third Social Club coach, and I did hear that they are beginning to run out of coaches to hire, so again, it might be worth extracting the digit if you haven't made your number there, yet.

All in all, it should be quite a day. There's a point or two to prove, too. With Bath and Bristol in the John Player Semi Finals, and Gloucestershire, who are already the Champions, facing Somerset in the County Final, we could be pardoned for asking a couple of pertinent questions. Like, just where is the strength of English Rugby? How come only one West Country player — Phil Blakeway — was in the England team which played Wales?

From that point of view, it doesn't matter who wins next week. As long as its Gloucestershire.

### **Congratulations and commiserations**

Congratulations, first of all, to the Gloucester lads who have been selected for the County Final. You can't blame the Selectors for sticking with the side which has got them this far, but perhaps we could regard Mike Teague and Paul Taylor as unlucky to miss out on this occasion.

I've also heard, though I have had no official confirmation, that Derek Morgan has joined Malcolm Preedy in the Under 23 Squad. I hope it isn't a rumour, because it's quite an achievement for a fellow in his first Senior season to have reached that level, and we wish him the best of luck. Malcolm, of course, is a fixture and deservedly so. Perhaps his chance of full International level isn't so far off.

Finally, all our commiserations to John Gadd and Mike Teague for missing out on the entire International Season. No doubt the Powers that Be had their reasons, and I only wish someone would explain to me what they are.



### **United at home next week**

If the demands of the garden, the wife, or the mistress, prevent you from attending the West Country invasion of Headquarters, next Saturday, you might like to know that you don't have to go without your weekly dose of Rugby. The fact that the First's game at Moseley has been shifted to later in the week, doesn't affect the United's entertainment of the same opposition at Kingsholm, next Saturday. They've had some good games, recently and deserve all the support they can get.

On Saturday, April 7th, the lads are off to Oggyland for a game with Launceston, then the following week we're back at home for Neath. After that, there's an away game at Lydney, the two Easter fixtures, and Exeter at the end of the month, so there's life in the old season yet.

### **Having a party?**

If you can see a Wedding Anniversary, a fund-raising event, or decorous occasions of the sort, looming up during the close season, don't forget that the new Complex will be available for public hire.

The Law has rules about it, of course, and the normal legislation regarding the drinks licence still applies, but it's worth investigating the possibilities with Terry Tandy, if you're in that situation.

And, of course, any such bookings will help the finances along a bit.

### **Ex-'Quin comes to Gloucester**

John Williams, the long-serving No. 2 in the City Leisure Services Department, wasn't noted for regular attendance at Kingsholm, but I doubt if that will be true of his replacement. He's Phil Cooke, who used to play on the flank for Harlequins in the late '70's. (No, not that Cook — the other one). He also played for Sussex for some nine seasons, and coached Thurrock during the season they had a little trot in the John Player.

He's also an ex-St. Luke's man, as is his new boss Alistair McHaffey.

He vividly remembers playing at Kingsholm and finding himself marking John Watkins, at the height of his powers. "It was an interesting experience", he says.

He comes to us after a spell as Deputy Director at Bisham Abbey, so he's got a lot of expertise going for him. If Dick Smith and his coaching colleagues could do with a bit of help, next season, I'm sure Phil Cooke would oblige.

### **A bit of history**

If you've ever been faced with the trauma of moving house, you'll know that one of the consolations is that you find things which you've lost, been looking for for ages, or have forgotten all about, anyway. Gloucester RFC is no exception.

While giving a hand clearing out the old changing room building, Reg Collins came across an old tin box which, on investigation, turned out to contain the original records of the purchase of the ground, and many other similar documents.

Some of the details are fascinating. Did you know that there was originally a cottage, just about on the centre spot? Or that the area was once known as 'Castle Grim'? (Isn't there a skittle team of the same name?).

These documents are obviously very valuable records, and we're hoping to hand them over to the County Library for safe, and professional keeping, while retaining photostats for the Club.

Let you know more, as the facts emerge.

### **Tailpiece**

In 1958, Gloucestershire played Durham at the Hartlepool Rovers Ground. The referee was one Dennis Thatcher. Yes — that's right — ~~that~~ Dennis Thatcher. Mickie Booth, who was playing, recalls the game well. "I should do," he says, "I lost three teeth!"

PETER ARNOLD.