



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

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GLOUCESTER v. HEADINGLEY

Saturday, 21st April, 1984

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

The Winner of today's
Official
Programme
Draw will
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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	P. Webb
	Three Quarters
14.	D. Morgan
*§	13. R. Mogg
	12. C. Dyke
	11. J. Breeze
	Half Backs
10.	M. Hamlin
9.	M. Hannaford
	Forwards
*†	1. G. Sargent (Capt.)
	2. G. Mann
	3. R. Phillips
	4. N. Scrivens
§	5. J. Brain
	6. J. Bennett
	7. M. Longstaff
	8. L. Cummins
	REPLACEMENTS
	R. Wilmott
	K. White

HEADINGLEY

	Full Back
15.	J. Mills
	Three Quarters
14.	J. Eagle
13.	J. Part
12.	P. Swales
11.	D. Kitching
	Half Backs
10.	J. Howarth
9.	M. Sanderson
	Forwards
1.	P. Huntsman
2.	T. Sinclair (Capt.)
3.	A. Machell
4.	A. Fraser
5.	M. Reid
6.	D. Brown
7.	K. Higgins
8.	P. Anson
	REPLACEMENTS
16.	S. Booth
17.	J. Chappell

Referee: R. G. JAMES (Leicestershire Society)

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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A long way from Leeds

It does seem odd that Headingley are the only Yorkshire club to make the trek to Kingsholm at all regularly. I know it's League country, but you would have thought that England's largest county would support more than one first-class club.

I know there are one or two others who would aspire to that status, and I'm not going to argue about it, but without doubt, today's visitors are the White Rose County's leading club, and they're very welcome here. As always.

At the time of writing, I haven't seen the Gloucester side, but assuming that we can't expect our quintet of South African Tourists to risk injury at this stage, it seems likely that we shan't have our strongest Fifteen on the field. If you remember one or two distinguished teams which have bitten the dust during the tender ministrations of the Headingley lads, you'll readily appreciate that it's not likely to be an easy ride for anyone, this afternoon.

The last time we had the pleasure of watching some of today's visitors in action, they were wearing Yorkshire shirts, and bearing in mind that County's record, over the past couple of seasons, you won't be in any doubt about the quality of the opposition.

In some ways, Headingley are about like Nottingham. No one takes much notice if you beat them, but it's very easy to come unstuck.

So we have quite a good way to start the Easter weekend. The Headingley visitors have all our good wishes, and we hope they have a very enjoyable afternoon at Kingsholm.

As long as they don't actually win.

The Famous Five

I suppose I must be the only Gloucester programme scribe who has ever had the pleasure of congratulating no less than five players on their selection for a major England tour. Whether you approve of playing rugby against South Africa or not, it's a tremendous compliment to the Club, and to the pack which has been built up — largely by Dick Smith — over the past few seasons.

For Big John Fidler it's a fairy tale. This time last year he was playing junior rugby in Cheltenham, having apparently decided that his days in the Big Time were over. Yet there's no doubt that he has been the outstanding middle-of-the-line lock in England this season, and thoroughly deserves his tour.

As John Mason said in the 'Daily Telegraph', "Fidler won't let anyone down."

Malcolm Preedy also deserves his chance, and we all hope that it's the start of the long and distinguished International career which has been promising for some seasons now.

Anyone who saw the County Final must have realised that he had written his name on the short list by that performance, and although, I suppose, Rendall must be the number one choice for loose head, at the moment, when they get down to cases on those hard pitches, Malcolm could well take over from him.

Phil Blakeway is — well — Phil Blakeway. His return to the England side was delayed this season (in my view, mistakenly), and while mobility will doubtless be required in South Africa, you've still got to have some real strength, back in the boiler house. And he must have come very close to the Captaincy.

We all know Steve Mills, and most of us would contend that he should never have been dropped after the 'stormer' he played against Wales last season. It would be a mistake to regard this selection as a substitution for Peter Wheeler, indeed, there's no certainty that the Leicester man would have been selected, anyway. This time, of course, 'Dark Stanic Mills' will have his mates around him — which could make a difference.

By his selection, Mike Teague has confirmed his status as being, officially, as above Hesford — who, in my opinion, should have been selected, nevertheless.

'Teaguey' will play his heart out, and his speed around the field will come in very handy in South Africa. If John Scott is to play lock, then he must be earmarked as the number one at No. 8, and not before time, either.

We shall all be rooting for you, chaps. It couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of fellows.

. . . but everyone can't go

Missing the tour must be the final shattering blow to a bitterly disappointing season for John Gadd. It makes one wonder if he hasn't done something wrong, somewhere along the line. I've seen all his rivals, more than once, this season, and I'll argue with anyone that he's the best blindside in England. Full stop.

John Orwin also has a right to feel disappointed. He has played like an express train this season, and I can't see John Scott comparing with him, either in the line, or in the loose. Hard luck John. Your time must surely come.

Steve Boyle had a late start, of course, but has played some good games towards the end of the season. As a front jumper, and an experienced International and tourist, he must have come close to selection. But there's always another season. Ask 'Fid'!

We mustn't complain that only five Gloucester forwards are going. Let's face it, most years we'd be over the moon to see just one on the plane. It never rains but it pours, they say, and it augurs well for the future of the Club.

Pity we don't do bed and breakfast

Do you realise that you could spend all week at Kingsholm, next week?

On Monday afternoon we have Birkenhead Park, of course, and you won't want to miss that.

On Tuesday (6.15) you could come along and see the Under 17 Cup Final between Lydney and Longlevens, which would be well worth watching.

Wednesday sees the United taking on Pontypool, which will be a stern last home match for them, and worthy of your attention.

Thursday, we have the North Gloucester Combination Under 16 Final, which might give you some pointers towards the stars of the future.

If you're thirsty, after all that shouting, you could remedy that by coming along for the final 300 Club draw in the Clubhouse.

And on Saturday, we finish the season with Exeter.

So you can't say the season is petering out. Indeed, it could go on until May 7th, when a trip to Exeter would be rewarding. Gloucester are again taking part in the Exeter Sevens, starting at 12.00 noon. Fundamentally, it involves all the South West Merit Table teams, plus a few 'guests'.

An added attraction, this year, is a Colts competition, so it could be quite a day out.

Organising anything?

Don't forget that the new complex will be available for hire during the summer. It would be ideal for an anniversary party, a retirement shindig, a works outing, or something similar.

Terry Tandy is the chap to see, and he'll be glad to put you in the picture about prices, catering, bar arrangements, and other essential matters.

How about a nice, respectable orgy?

Tailpiece

I still haven't had my letter. Surely, they must want a programme writer in South Africa.

PETER ARNOLD