



GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

PRESIDENT

CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.

GLOUCESTER v. EXETER

Saturday, 28th April, 1984

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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

316

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

	Full Back
15.	T. Smith
	Three Quarters
14.	D. Morgan
*§	13. R. Mogg
*	12. P. Taylor
*	11. N. Price
	Half Backs
10.	M. Hamlin
9.	M. Hannaford
	Forwards
*†	1. G. Sargent (Capt.)
	2. K. White
*	3. R. Pascall
*	4. J. Orwin
§	5. J. Brain
*§	6. J. Gadd
	7. I. Smith
	8. D. Spencer
	REPLACEMENTS
	R. Pinnell
	I. Roberts

EXETER

	Full Back
*	15. P. Treseder (Capt.)
	Three Quarters
14.	R. Johnstone
13.	P. Cole
12.	J. Burgoyne
11.	D. Rice
	Half Backs
*	10. M. Collins
*	9. P. Lander
	Forwards
	1. G. Retter
*	2. B. Friday
*	3. T. Harris
	4. P. Tregloan
*	5. A. Hopgood
	6. P. Barber
	7. M. Budgett
	8. S. Stevens
	REPLACEMENTS
	P. Wotton
	J. May

Referee:

† International

§ Under 23 International

* County



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. . . but not least

You always know that we're coming to the end of a campaign when you find Exeter on the menu. Not that we value their visits any the less for that.

The game does, after all, have Merit Table connotations, and while that has become of purely academic interest as far as Gloucester is concerned, this season, it isn't always like that. There have, in fact, been times when Exeter have done us a considerable nasty by winning, just when we'd rather they didn't.

There have been memorable occasions during this match. You will probably recall the highly emotional scenes when John Watkins paraded the John Player Cup after the Exeter game, and handed it to Mike Burton to carry past the stand — that being Mike's last game.

There was also the time when Gloucester scored some astronomic number of tries, and were unable to convert any of them. At one point, the Skipper, who I think was Keith Richardson, handed the ball to the referee and invited him to have a go, all other possibilities having been exhausted.

The final game of a season is always a bit special, and I suppose that, with five Gloucester lads going to South Africa, and three having joined the Barbarians for their Easter tour, this year is at least as special as most.

We couldn't wish for more welcome visitors to help us round off a season which has been one of the more memorable ones, for a variety of reasons, not all of them ones we would wish to record. There has been good luck for some players, and seeming injustice to others. We've won games that no one expected us to, and have lost games we shouldn't have — not that there's anything unusual about that.

So, once again, we're delighted to see you, Exeter. We hope your end-of-season is everything you would wish. Apart from the result of course, but there are limits, even to 'Glawster' hospitality.

Welcome to the Sponsors

Today's the day when we entertain all those organisations which have been so generous with their sponsorship and advertising this season. The contribution which these sterling types make to the Club is extremely valuable, and make a significant difference to our finances.

It has been gratifying to see the number of new Sponsors, this season, but their arrival doesn't in any way lessen the gratitude we have for our 'regulars'. Sponsorship is, or should be, a two-way process, and we dearly hope that the various organisations have found the exercise to be a commercially advantageous proposition.

Thanks from all of us, ladies and gentlemen. We hope you have a good day — and we'll look forward to seeing you next season.

Two local winners

The lucky programme 'fivers', so generously donated by Tyre Sales Limited, of Kingsholm road (who we thank), were both won by Gloucester people over the Easter period. The Headingley game on Easter Saturday, turned a modest profit for Mrs. B. Browning, of 25, Willowleaze — not often we get a lady winner — while Mr. Newman of 96, Rosebery Avenue won the greenback at the Birkenhead Park game.

This gives a good opportunity to thank everyone who buys the programme every week. Let's face it, if no one did — I'd be wasting my time.

"both teams play as programme"

It's a year or two now, since we heard the dulcet North Country tones of Jim Hickey, uttering the above immortal phrase. Now, sadly, we have to record the fact that he is relinquishing another of his jobs — one which doesn't bring him to public attention half so much as his old loudspeaker job did.

You may not realise that Jim has always handled the distribution of the programme, the organisation of the lads who sell it, and all that sort of thing. In fact, he's been doing it for 32 years, and if you think back, or take a look at the Honours boards, and see who was playing in 1951/2, you'll get an idea of just how long a stint that is.

I suppose, that if there are any compliments around, concerning the programme, I am as likely to get them as anyone, purely because my name's on it, but if the things weren't got into the hands of the right people, at the right time, then the whole thing would be a fiasco.

Thanks a million Jim. You're going to be a hard man to follow.

The Appeal

John Bick, to whom we are all grateful, for his tremendous work in organising the major Appeal in aid of the new Complex, wishes to express his own gratitude this week — to all those who contributed, in any way, to the big success it undoubtedly was.

The final, official, figure is over £31,000 which isn't by any means peanuts.

John also points out that, while the Appeal as such was officially due to close at the end of the season, it has been decided to leave a crack in the door, so that anyone who still wishes to subscribe, or become a donor, can still do so.

If you're tempted, John Bick's home address, where he hibernates through the close season, is The Bowery, Bulls Hill, Walford, Ross-on-Wye, Telephone: Ross 62895.

Yet again — congratulations

Can't let this last programme of the season go by without marking the fact that three Gloucester players joined the Barbarians tour, last weekend.

John Fidler we already knew about, but both Malcolm Preedy and John Gadd were called up at short notice. While we couldn't expect 'Fid' and Malcolm to risk injury, just at the moment, I'm told that 'Gaddy' played an absolute blinder in the win at Swansea. Perhaps the honour will come as some consolation for the bitter disappointments he has had to suffer, this season.

Possibly, the advent of Welsh Cup rugby, squad training, and a generally more "professional" approach, has taken some of the festival spirit from the Barbarians Easter Tour — more's the pity — but the name still has a great charisma about it, and to say that you have played for the 'Baa-Baas' is still a proud boast. And our three tourists certainly deserve the distinction.

Thanks all round

This is the occasion to say a heartfelt 'thanks' to everyone who helps to make Gloucester RFC the fine institution that it is. Some people, you know about. Others labour away unseen, but by no means unappreciated.

How would you like, for example, to wash muddy sets of kit, week after week? Or stand in the rain selling programmes? Or get thoroughly wet and cold by squeezing stropky drivers, who have arrived late, into the last two spaces in the carpark?

I can't think that it's much fun cleaning up the changing rooms, or the clubhouse. Preparing eats for the players must become a chore, too.

And I'm probably only scratching the surface, without even thinking of those helpers who would rather I didn't mention them.

Whatever you do, however you do it, we couldn't manage without you and we really are grateful for your efforts.

For hire

Don't forget what I've been saying about the hireability of the new Complex over the Summer. See Terry Tandy, if you're interested.

Tailpiece

I'm told that, as no one wants the job, I'll be back, same place, same time, next season. I shall certainly remember 1983/84, if only because it's the first time I've ever been asked to write something for 'Twickers'.

My personal thanks to everyone who has levelled suggestions, comments or insults at me. It does help to know what people want.

Until September — Summer well!

PETER ARNOLD.