

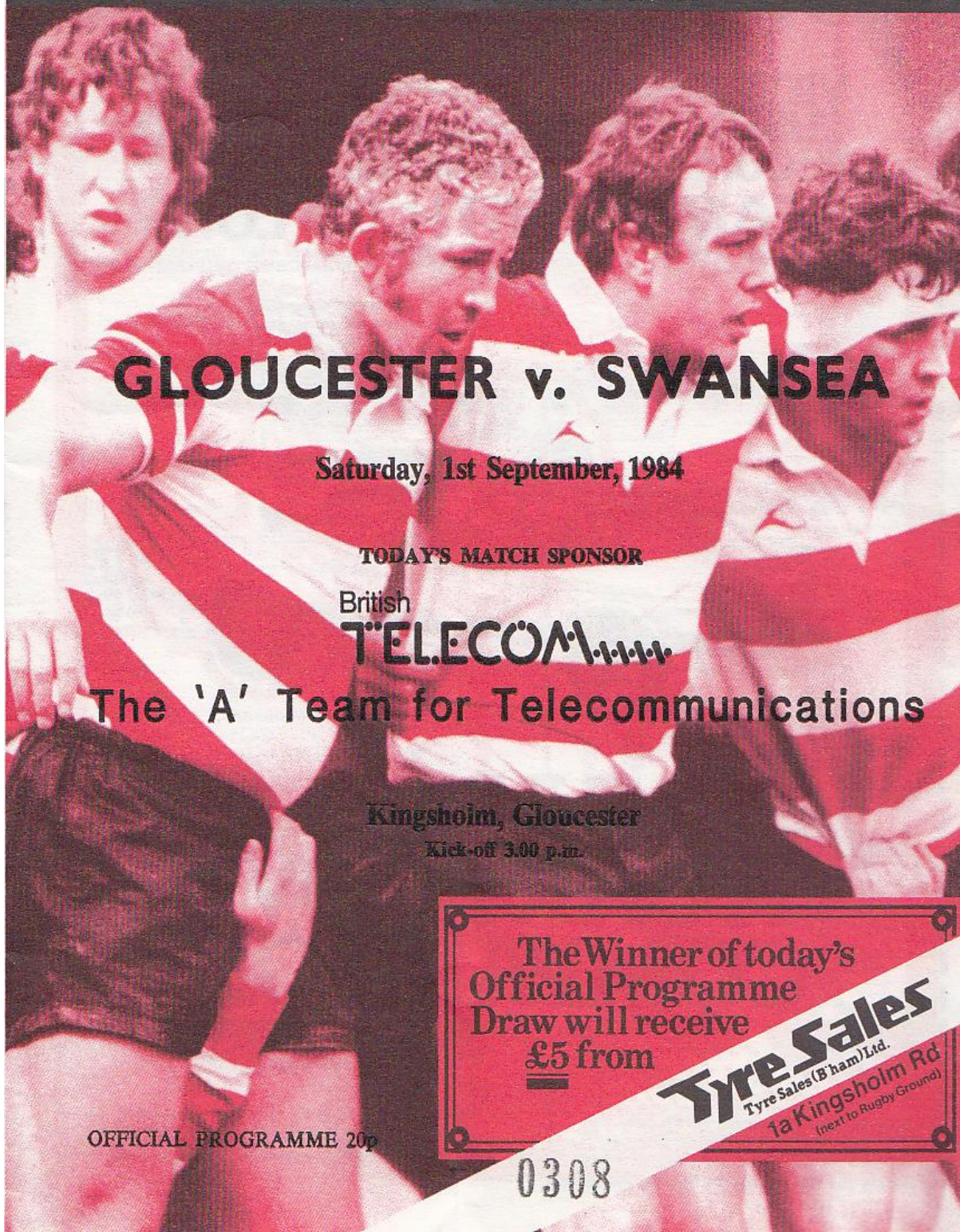


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

PRESIDENT: CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.



GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

Saturday, 1st September, 1984

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

British
TELECOM

The 'A' Team for Telecommunications

Kingsholm, Gloucester

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (B'ham) Ltd.
1a Kingsholm Rd
(next to Rugby Ground)

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

0308

- RUGBY BOOTS • JERSEYS AND SHORTS • BALLS • CLUB DISCOUNTS
- INDIVIDUAL DISCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS
- Personal attention always available at:

ALAN BRINN SPORTS

54 Barton Street, Gloucester

Telephone 33722

**TODAY'S MATCH
SPONSOR**

British
TELECOM

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. Evans
9. S. Baker

Forwards
† 1. M. Preedy
† 2. S. Mills
3. R. Pascall
† 4. S. Boyle
5. J. Orwin (Capt.)
6. J. Bennett
7. M. Longstaff
8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

G. Sargent
P. Williams

SWANSEA

White

Full Back
† 15. R. Blythe

Three Quarters
14. M. Thomas
† 13. D. Richards
12. G. Jenkins/D. Setaro
† 11. T. Swift

Half Backs
† 10. M. Dacey
9. R. Jones

Forwards
† 1. C. Williams
2. H. Gilson
3. J. Grice
4. T. Cheeseman
5. J. Williams
† 6. M. Davis
7. M. Ruddock
8. J. Thomas

REPLACEMENTS

K. Williams
K. Colclough

Referee: C. HIGH (Manchester Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



It's been a long, hot Summer

Whether it's an effect of the long, hot Summer or not, I don't know, but it does seem a particularly long time since we were gathered together in the face of this congregation. If, as they say, anticipation is half the fun, then we must all be rarin' to go.

We have much to anticipate, too. A new Captain, new coach, one or two interesting new players, Romania in January, Yorkshire in November.

As the late Stanley Holloway used to say; "Let Battle Commence!"

Water diviner?

"I've got a feeling in me water," said Mick Green, "I reckon Gloucester are going to beat Swansea, this year!"

Now Mick is an old Matson prop forward, which isn't in the least like playing wing three-quarter for West Wittering, so I'm not going to argue with occult messages emanating from his bladder. All the same, one has to admit that the track record is against him.

Last season, for example, at St. Helens, Swansea put it across us by 46 points to 16, having mastered a howling gale much better than Gloucester did, Cherry-and-white supporters who went along, came away vowing that Swansea were certainly the best side in Britain, and that no one was going to beat them, last season, Which just goes to show how first impressions can deceive.

By their own, very high, standards, today's visitors didn't have the best of seasons in 1983/4. Gloucester shouldn't take this as any sort of comfort, however, because the Swans will certainly be out to regain the pre-eminent position which they have so richly deserved, over the past few seasons.

Most people end up with a 'Swan Song'. It's typical of Gloucester RFC that we start off with ours. All things considered, we couldn't have a better side to launch the new season with us, and as always, they're heartily welcome.

And if Mick Green's right — I'll buy him a pint.

Big year for Telecom

We're not the only organisation launching something new, at the moment. On August 6th, British Telecom became a Public Limited Company. Less than four weeks later, they are sponsoring the Gloucester v. Swansea game, which shows a very proper sense of priorities.

It also gives weight to Roger Lindsey's comments, when gearing up this most generous sponsorship, that although Telecom is now a very large national company, their local roots are very strong, and that they still intend to be the very important part of our local community.

The new structure isn't just a piece of bureaucratic juggling. Our local people are quite sure that they'll be able to expand and extend their services under the new system, and there is already some evidence for that. Who would have thought, for example, even a couple of years ago, that you would be able to pay your phone bill at a 'Phoneshop' in Debenhams, and be able to use your credit card to do so? And don't forget — in a few months time you'll be able to buy British Telecom plc shares, an operation which is planned to be anything but a system geared solely for big business. There will be national press advertisements to tell you how to acquire some shares, and there could be far worse ways of putting a bit by for your old age.

Personally, I shall be very interested to see the new Telephone Book, scheduled to be distributed all over the country by the end of 1986. It is to be a hardback which contains much more information than the familiar directory, including national and international dialling codes.

Roger also wants me to say how much they enjoyed their last essay in sponsorship, which was the Richmond game, which Gloucester won. Roger's rather like Mick Green. He sees an omen in that.

Anyway, our grateful thanks go to Telecom for their generosity, and we hope the future is as rosy for them as they anticipate.

It's good to be first

Whatever the results of the South African tour — and they weren't **that** bad — and however you feel about selection etc, we have cause to celebrate the fact that Gloucester became the first Club in RFU history to provide that whole front row for England in a major International. The fact that they all immediately lost their places — and their replacements did no better, to say the least — doesn't take it away from us. Messrs. Blakeway, Mills and Preedy were the **first**.

International tickets

It's a complex International season this year, with games against Australia (Nov. 3) and Romania (Mar. 5) supplementing the home fixtures. Therefore, David Foyle needs Members' ticket applications in by September 22nd for the Australian match, and by October 3rd for the rest.

In addition, the increasing numbers of debentures sold at Twickenham mean that the numbers of tickets being sent to clubs are now very small, so Members are asked to keep applications to one per match, per Member, although this can be stretched to two for Australia and Romania.

If you're a regular season ticket holder, you probably knew all that, because a form will have been sent to you. If you haven't got one, then see Terry Tandy in the Office.

250 Club

To be strictly accurate, this year it's to be a '300 Club', following the success of last year's efforts. The idea is that there will be monthly draws, yielding six prizes of £25 and five of £10. At the end of that period, the big annual draw offers the nice prospect of £300, £150, £50 and £25. Of course, if the number of people participating exceed 300 significantly, then the prizes could be even handier than that.

All it takes is 25p a week, or you could save all the aggro by paying one lump sum of £6.50 to cover the season.

Why not? All you need do, is see Brian Howells, or any member of the 300 Club committee. They'll be delighted to take your money.

Best of luck!

The spotlight is always very much on a new Captain, especially at Kingsholm, so let's wish the 'best of British' to John Orwin, who after recent history, deserves all the luck going. One thing we know for sure, is that 'J.O.' will work his wotsits off to get the results we all want, and with the problems there are going to be in the Merit Table this year, as well as our renewed acquaintanceship with the John Player, he's facing a demanding season. All the best, John, We'll be shouting for you!

Thanks Sarge!

It's inevitable that there will be a bit of 'The King is dead, long live the King' about the Captaincy situation, but I'd like to record our grateful thanks to Gordon Sargent, for his efforts last season. Let's face it — we were on our backsides when 'Sarge' took over, and he did one helluva job. Thanks Sarge! You gave us back our self respect.

. . . and to Nan and Bill

Our grateful thanks, also to Nan and Bill Iddles, tremendous supporters of the Club, who have generously presented the ball for today's match. It's a terrific gesture, and is much appreciated.

Let's face it — the lads would look a bit silly out there without it.

Season tickets

You may have found out by now, but if not, anyone wanting a season ticket will find that all shapes and sizes are available at Chateau Tandy, the caravan behind the main Stand. In addition, Ground seasons can be obtained from the old offices, on the other side of the ground.

For the attention of Trevor Crutwell

. . . and anyone else who has been making justifiably rude remarks about the efficiency of the loudspeaker system in the Stand. The boffins tell us that they think the problem has now been solved, even though the work of rectifying the problem is not yet complete. All should be well in a week or two. If not, we're sure Trevor will tell us.

Big John 'Fid'

It's a pity to start the season on a sad note, but we must mark the retirement of Big John Fidler. Anyone who can play at lock for Gloucester 450 times, grace nine County Finals and play for his country four times must be something quite exceptional, as we know 'Fid' is. We shall certainly miss him on the field, but I hope not in the bar. Kingsholm wouldn't be the same without him, and we owe him a very great deal.

Thanks 'Fid'. Gloucester's never had a better servant.

PETER ARNOLD

Front Cover by John Darling, courtesy of 'Rugby Post'