



FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

PRESIDENT: CANON H M HUGHES B A

GLOUCESTER v. S. WALES POLICE

Wednesday, 7th November, 1984

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**MATCH SPONSOR
THIS EVENING**

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GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back
15. T. Smith

Three Quarters
14. D. Morgan
13. P. Taylor
12. R. Ellis
11. N. Price

Half Backs
10. M. Hamlin
9. M. Hannaford

Forwards
† 1. M. Preedy
2. K. White
3. R. Phillips
4. L. Cummins
5. J. Brain
6. J. Bennett
7. I. Smith
8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS
R. Wood
G. Mann

SOUTH WALES POLICE

Full Back
15. N. Harris

Three Quarters
14. M. Brinkworth
13. K. Jones
† 12. R. Donovan
11. C. Barber

Half Backs
10. J. Davies
9. T. Lee

Forwards
1. G. Hiscocks
2. D. Roberts
3. H. Williams-Jones
4. H. Marshall
† 5. S. Sutton (Capt.)
6. D. Price
7. P. R. Davies
8. J. Stroud

REPLACEMENTS
P. Noble
D. Young

Referee: R. HARDING (Devon Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



Success story

At Kingsholm, we reckon to know a bit about rugby players who are also policemen. The presence among us of John Fidler and Richard Jardine, both of whom achieved considerable honours in the game, ensures that.

However, individual police players are one thing. Police teams are quite another, and only a couple of years ago, most of us would have regarded the various constabulary sides as the 'Mr. Plods' of rugby: big, certainly, tough, sometimes, but easy meat for the flying pickets which the average first class club was able to field against them.

You can't say that any longer. The likes of Metropolitan Police and Devon and Cornwall Police are by no means the pushovers they once were, for example.

But surely, the best example of the improvement in Police Rugby lies in the quality of our visitors tonight. There's no doubt that South Wales Police, spurred on by a Chief Constable who also happens to be a rugby fanatic, have shaken everyone over the past couple of years.

Somewhere among the record 1,321 points that the club recorded last season, is the relatively modest 13 they scored against Gloucester, who replied with 10, a creditable achievement when compared with the fate of some of the sides who obstructed the police in the execution of their duty.

Winger Mark Brinkworth won't forget the 1983/4 season. He played in 40 games and scored 54 tries, and you have to go back to 1928/9 before you can find a player who beat that record. (It was Dan Jones of Neath, actually).

As all the rugby world knows, one of the successes of the rejuvenated Wales team was South Wales Policeman Bleddyn Bowen, who played in all four home internationals, adding those caps to the one he had acquired in the traumatic game against Romania. If he does the same this season, he will become his club's most-capped player.

Last season, I was fortunate enough to be present at the after-match formalities at both the Gloucester and Cheltenham games, and I can assure you that they were memorable. I've no reason to think that things will be different tonight.

One way and another, we're in for a good evening, and our guests are all very welcome indeed.

But I wouldn't try any drink-driving if I were you. There's no point in tempting providence, is there?

Players' Prance

Gloucester's biggest social event of the year, easily eclipsing both the Civic Ball and Cliff Harris's curry evening, takes place in the Complex on Saturday, November 17th, when the entire playing strength of the Gloucester Rugby Football Club, fronted by Jeremy Bennett, invite you to a Disco in aid of the Players' Fund.

The cost is a derisory £1.50, and I'm told that tickets are going so fast that the touts will be offering them for at least ten times that amount by the time the event arrives.

November 17th is the day of the Broughton Park game, so, allowing for a pint or two at lunch time, you could easily make a day of it.

If your taste runs to string quartets, rather than Spandau Ballet, then you have been warned. Even so, it wouldn't hurt you to support the lads by buying a ticket, in recognition of the enormous amount of pleasure that the chaps risk life and limb to give us.

Any player can sort out tickets for you, although the easy way to make sure of yours is to buttonhole Jeremy Bennett.

Yorkshire on Saturday

The vital County game on Saturday looks like being an occasion. I say that in the knowledge that, as I write, four of the five selected Gloucester players are injured — another example of the wretched luck, in this respect, we do seem to be getting, this season.

Of course, it could be said that Steve Mills was lucky to miss the second half of the England game, but John Gadd, John Orwin, and Andy Richards don't even have that consolation.

I only have press reports to go by, but some of the injuries don't sound good at all. One can only hope that, as sometimes happens, things don't turn out to be as serious as they appear at first sight, and all our contingent can turn out on the day.

Luckily, Gloucestershire have more than adequate cover in just about every one of the affected positions, and we could all make good cases for the Gloucester lads to be replaced by club colleagues. By the time you read this, the situation will have been resolved, and, whatever the side which eventually takes the field, Yorkshire are going to have their hands full.

For anyone who has been in a monastery for the past few weeks, the situation is that Yorkshire are sure of a place in the Semi Finals, while Gloucestershire need a draw against Yorkshire to be sure of proceeding further. That assumes that Somerset beat Kent, which they won't if Richard Pascal has anything to do with it.

I don't know how many tickets are left, but what is available will be on sale in the Caravan behind the main Stand this evening.

Bearing in mind the great bevy of supporters which Yorkshire brought along last season, if you are one of those people who likes to stand up at rugby matches, it might be a good idea to get along a bit early on Saturday. Even if you have Stand Tickets, it would do everyone a favour if you'd take your seats in plenty of time, to avoid crushes at the turnstiles.

And one more thing. If you want a small libation, after the game, make sure you bring your Social Club Membership card with you, or you won't get into the clubhouse. If you haven't got that essential document, then tonight's your last chance to do so.

Thanks to BJB Consultants

The other day, the lady who gives financial advice on Breakfast Television roused me from my morning torpor by expressing her opinion that insurance premiums were going haywire, and it is a good idea, these days, to secure the services of a good insurance broker.

What struck me about that was that she could hardly have timed her words of wisdom better as far as Barrie Beatie is concerned. After all, a plug on TV, followed by a sponsorship exercise at Kingsholm, adds up to a fair promotional package.

As I have personal reasons for knowing, Barrie has a great deal of experience in getting the best deal from insurance companies for his Clients. He has special knowledge of life assurance, and is a great bloke to talk to if you are looking for a pension plan, or for permanent health insurance.

If you're in business, he also has a good plan for insuring your key personnel — the sort of staff member who is going to cost you a lot of money if he goes off sick, for any length of time.

I always think that Insurance Brokers are something like solicitors, in that you really need to know something about them before you trust your affairs to them. In Barrie's case, the track record includes years as a Patron at Kingsholm, as well as being one of those sterling characters who contributed so generously to the new Complex, which is surely a fair reference.

Thanks, Barrie for your continuing support. I'm sure that your phone (Stroud 70799) will be ringing as a result.

Don't forget . . .

. . . that next Wednesday we have a visit from Cheltenham, but that before that — on Monday evening — the United take on Berry Hill. No more need be said.

Tailpiece

It's good to support England. It must be terribly boring to follow a side that wins all the time.

PETER ARNOLD.

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