

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1873

Kingsholm

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

GLOUGESTER V. EXETER UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, 21st November, 1984

MATCH SPONSOR FOR TODAY

THE LITTLE SHOP

98 LONDON ROAD, GLOUCESTER

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251

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MATCH SPONSOR FOR TODAY

THE LITTLE SHOP

98 LONDON ROAD, GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER

Cherry & White

Full Back
T. Smith

Three Quarters

14. J. Breeze

13. P. Taylor

12. R. Ellis

11. A. Richards

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. R. Wood

Forwards

1. P. Jones

2. K. White

3. R. Pascall

4. N. Scrivens

5. J. Brain

6. J. Bennett

7. M. Longstaff

8. L. Cummins

REPLACEMENTS

R. Mogg

R. Wood

EXETER UNIVERSITY

Full Back

15. G. Stratton

Three Quarters

14. D. Adkins

13. P. Strike

12. J. O'Sullivan

11. L. Drakeley

Half Backs

10. K. Noble

9. A. Shufflebotham

Forwards

1. A. Robinson

2. C. Atro-Morris

3. K. Long

4. T. Edbrooke

5. R. Perry

6. M. Cathery

7. A. Egerton (Capt.)

8. J. Barratt

REPLACEMENTS

R. Bell

M. Hoskins

Referee: M. PETERS (Somerset Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Academic interest

Tonight, of course, sees the first half of our traditional pair of 'academic' fixtures. With the regrettable decline in importance of the 'Oxbridge' sides, interest must inevitably increase in the UAU Championship, especially for those of us who like to spot future stars. So we are, as always, pleased to welcome the lads from Exeter University, who have been coming here ever since they were known as 'St. Luke's'.

I wonder if it's a coincidence that Nottingham have emerged as a very strong club side, just at the time when Nottingham University have appeared in the UAU Final?

Exeter, of course, have always been a power in these circles. In last year's Championship they sailed through their group, scoring 122 points against Bristol, Bath, Southampton and Reading, and only conceding 9. They then demolished Brunel, 36-9 in the Challenge Round, before just about losing to Nottingham, 6-3 in the Quarter Finals, so the great St. Luke's tradition is still alive and well.

Of course, top-class club Rugby is something very different from the Universities variety, but many an old Exeter man has gone on to honours in the game. Right here in Gloucester we have two good examples, based at the Leisure Centre. The City Chief Leisure Officer, Alistair McHaffey, played on the wing for Plymouth and Devon, while his 'Number Two' Philip Cook, appeared on the flank for Harlequins and Sussex. He then went on to become Deputy Director of Bisham Abbey, before joining us here.

I don't know if either, or both, of them will be here to welcome the latest crop from their old tree of learning, but whether they are or not, tonight's visitors can be sure of a warm welcome from the test of us.

In fact, this is the first time we have had the pleasure of seeing Exeter University for two years. Last year's game had to be called off because Kingsholm, of all places, was waterlogged.

So we're doubly pleased to see them tonight, and hope they all have a very good evening, on and off the field.

Ten days left!

Just a reminder that the first 300 Club Draw takes place on Friday week. So if you've been meaning to join, but haven't yet got round to it, there's still just about time.

Brian Howells, or some member of his Mafia, will be in the clubhouse after the game, and indeed, someone will be around every evening, to take your money.

Thanks to the Little Shop.

While we are, of course, extremely grateful to the likes of C & G and British Telecom for sponsoring our games, in some ways it's an even greater pleasure to thank a good, old fashioned, local corner shop for making the same generous gesture.

Not that the Little Shop is literally on a corner. You know it — next door to the old people's flats in London Road.

Nick Healey's Little Shop is one of those magnificent institutions which, if you listen to the moaners, should have been put out of business by the supermarkets years ago. The fact that it thrives is certainly due to that old fashioned word 'service'.

They seem to be open all hours God sends, and somewhere in the nooks and corners, you can find virtually anything, from a tin of Brasso, through smokes and bottles of hooch, to a bunch of flowers — which could be handy if you need a peace offering after staying in the bar too long following a game.

Nick Healey, of course, is a name by no means unknown in local Rugby circles. He played for Old Cryptians, before becoming a founder member of the Longlevens club. He is therefore directly responsible for the production of such stars as Mick Booth and Mike Burton, which is a recommendation in itself.

Nowadays, Nick is Secretary of the North Gloucestershire Combination, but his insistence on staying open all hours doesn't allow him to see very much Rugby these days, so it's nice to get him out from behind the cauliflowers and Bounty Bars for an evening.

Not to worry though. The Little Shop is still in good hands, "You can always be sure of a friendly smile from my girls" says Nick.

Don't forget the Christmas Draw

I was looking through the long list of prizes for the Christmas Draw, the other day, and noted that an inordinate number of them appear to be liquid. Which is right and proper, if you like your Seasonal Goodwill to come in a bottle.

John Beaman will happily sell you some tickets.

Trips to Bath and Leicester

Talking of John Beaman, he tells me that the Social Club intends to run coaches to both Bath, on December 8th, and Leicester on January 12th.

They'll both depart Kingsholm at 12.15, and leave the respective grounds at about 6.00 p.m. The Bath trip will cost £2.00, and the Leicester one £2.50. You couldn't do it for that in your car.

Three Counties on Saturday

We don't have many tickets for the County Semi Final at Bristol next Saturday, but those that are left — if any — will be on sale, either in the Secretary's Office, or in the Caravan, both behind the main Stand, after the game.

While we're on the subject, congratulations to Andy Richards, Malcolm Preedy, John Orwin and Mike Teague on, quite deservedly, retaining their places after the major part they played in the win over Yorkshire.

John gave us a shock when he went off at half time last Saturday, but he tells me it was only a crack on the chin, and his departure was as much precautionary as anything. He was certainly in fine form later in the evening.

Loughborough next week

We're away to London Irish on Saturday, but if you don't fancy the trip to London, or the one to Bristol, there's no need to go into withdrawal symptoms, because the United will be performing here, also against London Irish.

Next Wednesday, of course, we have Loughborough Colleges, who are the current holders of the aforementioned UAU Championship. So it will be a good opportunity to compare them with tonight's visitors.

Then, of course, we have a Big One on Saturday December 1st when we are expecting Leicester to drop by. So there's plenty going on, in the next week or two.

The figures

My thanks to my correspondent who, as promised, is keeping me updated on the figures for both the First team and the United. He says he wishes to remain anonymous, but you could hamstring that by digging out your Harlequins programme.

He tells me that, up to the end of October, the figures were as follows: First: Played 17, Won 10, Lost 7, Points For 309, Against 234. United: Played 12, Won 11, Drawn 1, Points For 349, Against 82.

The First had scored 45 tries (against, 27), while the United had scored 55 plus 3 penalty tries, and conceded only 6.

And incidentally, those six, are one each in six different games!

Tailpiece

Harking back to Nick Healey, his Little Shop is about midway between Kingsholm and Horton Road, which might explain why he is ecumenical enough to sponsor a game for Gloucester City too. He also tells me that he has invited Geoff Hester, Chairman of Gloucester City, along tonight.

Well - we're not proud. Welcome Sir, and come again.

PETER ARNOLD.