



FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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

GLOUCESTER v. COVENTRY

Saturday, 15th December, 1984

MATCH SPONSOR FOR TODAY



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**MATCH SPONSOR
FOR TODAY**



BARCLAYS

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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. M. Preedy
2. K. White
3. R. Pascall
4. J. Orwin (Capt.)
5. J. Brain
6. J. Gadd
7. I. Smith
8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS
D. Pointon
J. Bennett

COVENTRY

Full Back
15. M. Fairn

Three Quarters
14. M. Summers
13. T. Buttimore
12. C. Ralston
11. E. Saunders

Half Backs
10. M. Lakey
9. S. Thomas

Forwards
1. L. Johnson
2. S. Brain
3. S. Wilkes
4. T. Gulliver
5. M. Fleetwood
6. M. Malik (Capt.)
7. R. Travers
8. G. Robbins

REPLACEMENTS
~~D. Clarke~~
R. Freemantle

Referee: T. FRIEND (Leicestershire Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



No friends like old friends

This is the time of year when we all tend to contact old friends, who we haven't seen for a while. Mind you — we don't all do it by inviting them along, 15 at a time, with the intention of inflicting assorted mayhem on each other, but there's no accounting for taste.

In Rugby terms, we have no older, and more valued friends than Coventry. Many of us relish memories of hard-fought encounters, when the opposition was provided by the likes of George Cole, Peter Jackson, David Duckham, and so many others, and it always seems to be true that when Coventry are strong, England are strong.

In that respect, the Selectors can, perhaps, take heart from the fact that, after a mediocre season last year, and indeed, a less-than-invincible start to this season, today's visitors are now getting their act together, and producing some very good results. The parallel with our own recent experience is obvious, and sets the stage for quite a game today. Which is as it should be.

Last season, Coventry had to be content with the runner-up spot in both their fixtures with Gloucester. After beating them at Kingsholm in September, 19-14, we compounded the felony on the away occasion by winning 18-6. We then followed up by winning at Coundon Road, earlier this year, 10-6.

It was never Cov's way to accept three defeats in a row, and they will certainly be out to redress the balance today.

I was interested to see that, when they visit Plymouth in the John Player, it will be the first time the two clubs have met since before the war. Well — we can tell them a few things about the Devon lads, and they would do well to remember the number of times that Plymouth have beaten us, on their own patch, over the past season or two.

But let's concentrate on today's encounter. No one could be more appropriate to open our Christmas programme than Coventry, and we all bid them a traditional Kingsholm welcome.

Home Draw

Talking about the John Player — it's Richmond again. At home this time. Most of you will recall that the last two JPC matches between our two clubs ended in draws, with the away side going through. Times have changed, however, and I remember that we saw them off efficiently enough last season. Their results this year don't seem to indicate that they have become any stronger, this season, but Cup Rugby is something else again.

One to look forward to.

Thanks to Barclays

This is the second time that Barclays Bank have sponsored the Coventry game, and we are therefore more than usually grateful for their support. Regular readers may remember that the big news last year was that they were introducing Saturday morning opening, and although other banks are now climbing on that particular bandwagon, you can't knock the fact that Barclay's did it first.

But Barclays are a bit different from most banks anyway. Anyone who has suffered that headmaster's study wait outside his Bank Manager's office would see one welcome innovation as soon as he walked into Barclay's Soughtgate Street branch.

Instead of that intimidating door, which simply reeks of demands to reduce the overdraft, one is greeted by one of a bevy of attractive young ladies, ready, willing and extremely able to handle any queries you have, and to provide all the help and advice you need. Of course, if your business is confidential, or you're thinking of buying your second luxury yacht, then appropriately cloistered accommodation is available, but Barclay's Personal Banking service certainly makes a refreshing change, and seems very much in tune with modern needs and circumstances.

Southgate Street is one of five branches which Barclay's have in Gloucester, but let's not forget that one of the most important Barclay's establishments in Britain is based right here at Barnwood. It's the Barclay's Computer Centre, which serves the whole Southern half of the country, and is one of only two in the Country. It's also a nice building, which makes a change from some of the mediocrities which the City has had to suffer at various times.

Manager Norman Gooch will, of course, be in charge today. He's been a patron for a long time now, and is certainly a familiar face around the club.

Thanks again, Norman, and thanks to Barclays. It's great to have such a world-famous financial institution behind us.

Andy's ambit

Members of the Andy Mitchell Appreciation Society will be pleased, but not particularly surprised, to learn that he is running his usual coach to Leicester on January 12th. Afficionados will remember that the chariot usually leaves Kingsholm at about 10.00 a.m., stops at an exceptionally friendly hostelry on the way, for a beer and a bite and then stops at the same watering hole on the way back for something more substantial in the nosh line.

Andy tells me that the trip will cost £3.00 this year, and if past experience is anything to go by, the coach will fill up faster than the clubhouse lounge after a Bristol match, so you'd better strike while the iron is hot.

. . . and John's Jaunt

Andy Mitchell's Leicester outing, of course, is quite distinct and separate from the Social Club coach which John Beaman is organising for the same match. His trip will leave at 12.15, stop for a quick one in the Leicester clubhouse, and return at about 6.00. When I saw John at Bath, he told me that he has already sold about 20 tickets, at £2.50 each, so your time isn't unlimited there, either.

He also told me that he has a new supply of club sweaters in, and the timing could hardly be better, with Christmas coming along in ten days time.

And, while you're talking to him, why not buy a draw ticket or two?

How are you seeing the New Year in?

If you haven't made plans yet, you could do much worse than bring your wife/husband/bank manager or other suitably qualified partner, along to the Club New Year's Eve Dinner Dance, to be held in the Complex. It is to be quite an affair, and tickets are a steal at £15.00 a head.

At the time of writing, I am told that there are only about 40 tickets left, so if you're tempted, it would be as well to see Terry Tandy fairly soon.

Not a bad way to greet 1985!

Romania

In fact, if you do come along to the New Year's Eve orgy, it hardly seems worth going home. You might just as well stay on for the South and South West v. Romania game while you're about it.

Season Ticket holders have had their crack of the whip now, so Stand Tickets will be on general sale, as from today. They cost £5.00, and please note that Ground tickets cost only £2.00, and not £3.00 as we originally thought. Which is a nice surprise.

Christmas is coming . . .

. . . and so are Newport, next Saturday, Lydney, fulfilling their traditional Boxing Day fixture, and Bridgend on December 29th.

That looks like a tough bill of Christmas fare for any side, but the icing is put on the cake by London Scottish on Saturday January 5th.

And don't forget — while we entertain Romania on January 1st, the lads have a difficult proposition in an away game to Moseley, with or without Steve Boyle, who has been getting rave notices lately.

If Bridgend doesn't attract you, there's an alternative in the visit of United to Berry Hill, and remembering the interest in the waterlogged reverse fixture, the sparks could well be flying there.

So we have no need to suffer from Rugby starvation over the holiday period. See you along the way.

Tailpiece

Did you notice that Mr. Tony Trigg has been dropped from the International Referees Panel?

Oh dear. What a pity. Never Mind.

PETER ARNOLD.