

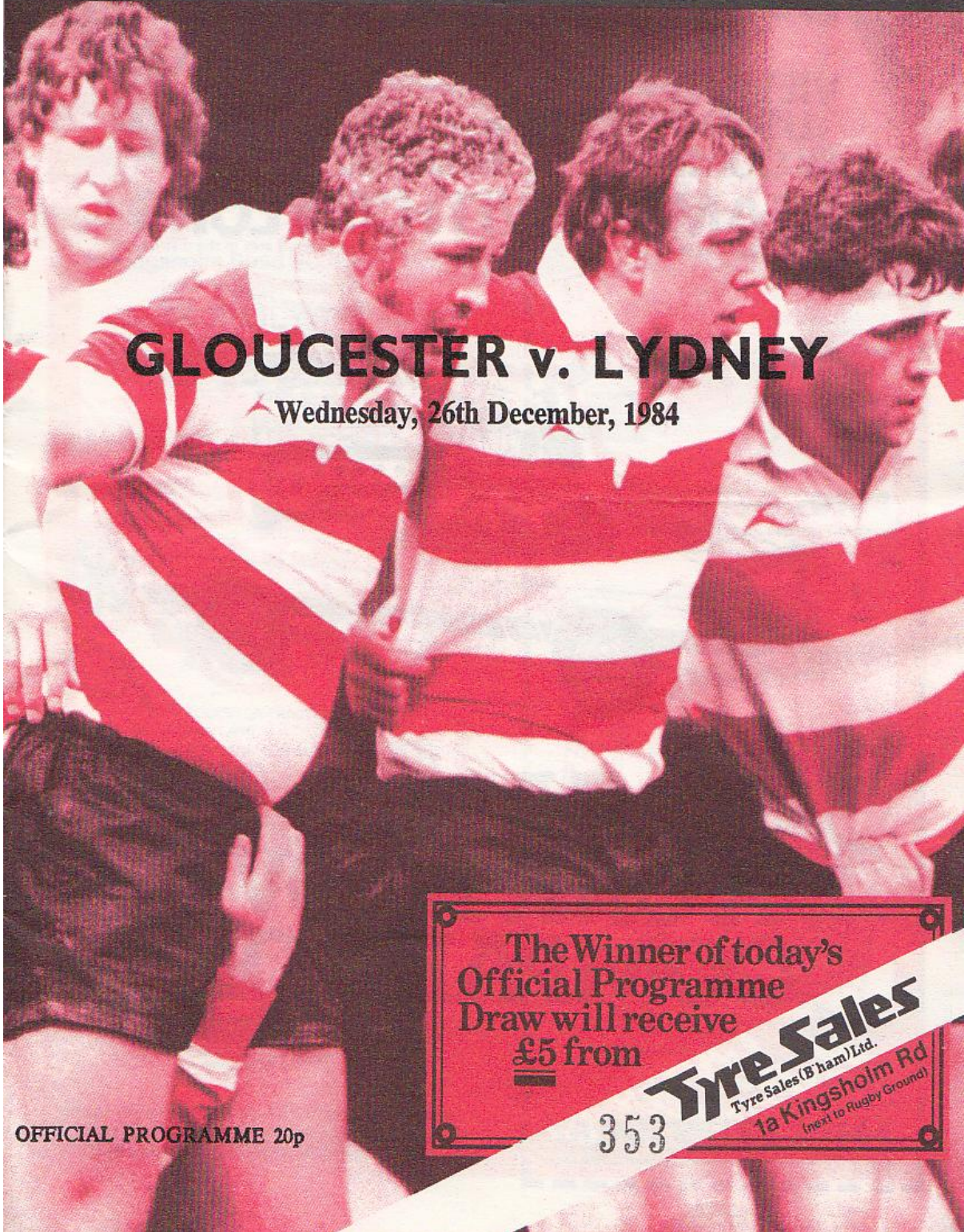


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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



GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

Wednesday, 26th December, 1984

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

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
1a Kingsholm Rd
Next to Rugby Ground

353

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

- 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

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. R. Wood

Forwards

† 1. G. Sargent

† 2. S. Mills

† 3. P. Blakeway

4. J. Orwin (Capt.)

5. J. Brain

6. J. Gadd

7. I. Smith

8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

D. Pointon

G. Mann

LYDNEY

Full Back

15. I. Wilkins

Three Quarters

14. M. Powell

13. D. Richards

12. J. Saville

11. M. Fennell

Half Backs

10. A. Howells

9. P. Howell (Capt.)

Forwards

1. R. Trafford

2. P. Hopkins

3. A. Brookes

4. R. Williams

5. J. Weech

6. W. Fowke

7. R. Carpenter

8. A. Curtis

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: G. AIRDRIE (Warwickshire Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



Traditional Christmas Fare

Hope you're having an excessively self-indulgent Christmas, and I'll take the opportunity of assuring you that the funny smell around here is fresh air — just in case you'd forgotten.

Be that as it may, it's difficult to think of an event more likely to help you digest the last vestiges of the Christmas pudding than the traditional visit of Lydney to Kingsholm. They'd be welcome at any time, of course, but our West-of-Severn neighbours really do add something to the Festive Season, and we're grateful for that.

Of course, reputations and the form book count for nothing on this occasion. With a Christmas programme as heavy as Gloucester's, you can't expect all the lads to turn out for every match, and I expect Lydney could make much the same statement. In any case, Gloucester and Lydney is always a game which sorts out the men from the boys, and all things considered, Lydney have a record against the Cherry-and-Whites which bears comparison with that of any side, anywhere in the fixture list.

I've always thought that they are an underestimated side, an opinion shared by no less an authority than ex-England Captain Steve Smith, who freely admitted that his side, Sale, were a shade lucky to get away with their John Player game at Regentsholme last season.

There is also the matter of the seemingly constant 'toing and froing' of players between the two clubs. We can all think of a string of characters who have played regularly for both sides, which adds to the family atmosphere — appropriate for this time of the year surely.

It's also a great opportunity for us to wish Lydney all the luck in the world on their forthcoming visit to Redruth in this year's John Player. It's a tough prospect, but one which our neighbours can cope with, and we all hope they do just that — so long as we don't get drawn against them, until the Final.

May we wish you all you wish yourselves, Lydney. It's great to see you again.

John Player tickets

It might surprise you to learn that, after today, we only have two home First Team games before the John Player Special Cup Match with Richmond on January 26th. So we'd better give you the gen on things right away.

Stand tickets will be on sale at the London Scottish game on January 5th. There won't be any Ground tickets.

It's also worth pointing out that all John Player games are, according to the rules of the Competition, on an 'all pay' basis. This is because Richmond is entitled to a half share of the profits.

And 'all' really does mean 'all'. You'll find that you will be asked to pay for the car park, which may be regrettable, but unavoidable, and is not done at the Club's choice.

So there's not much point in inflicting verbal mayhem on turnstile people, or car park attendants. It's not their fault, either.

Still, whatever the charges, it would be nice to see Kingsholm bulging at the seams that day. The more — and louder — support the boys get, the better. Once that whistle blows, it's all we can do to help.

Romania

While I'm about it, here are similar details about the South and South West game against Romania, next Tuesday, as ever was.

Centre Stand tickets are just about all gone now, but the last I heard, there were still Wing Stand tickets at £5.00 a time. Mind you, I'm writing a week before Christmas, so don't shoot me if they've all gone.

I am told, however, that there should be plenty of Ground tickets at £2.00 available.

Terry Tandy asks me to suggest to you that you would do everyone a favour if you could contrive to get your tickets beforehand. It looks almost certain that we shall have a big influx of visitors from who-knows-where, and you could help avoid congestion at the turnstiles by having your magic piece of cardboard in your hot little hand, before you arrive.

Similarly, it would be appreciated if you could take your places on the ground a bit earlier than usual, to avoid long queues, trying to get in at the last moment. There's nothing more annoying than to have apologetic late arrivals getting between you and the ball, just after kick-off.

Not that it should be difficult to wile away the extra few minutes. We're delighted to tell you that the popular 'Blue Devils' Marching Band will be doing their attractive thing before the game.

Congratulations, whoever you are

One of the tricky things about preparing programme notes at this time of the year is that three programmes have to be sorted out, virtually all at once. After all, even printers are entitled to a Christmas break.

This means that I am writing this one before the South and South West side is announced, and I can't give my customary felicitations to those Gloucester players who have been selected. I'm not even contemplating the situation where none of our chaps are on view at Kingsholm for a match of this importance. The Selectors simply wouldn't do that. I keep telling myself.

So, whoever you are, hearty congratulations. We'll be rooting for you.

Going to Leicester?

On the grounds of 'Do unto Others the Way they've Done You', the 'Tigers' will be out to give us a hiding on January 12th. So it's nice to know that two coaches will be going from here to Leicester on that day.

John Beaman will be running the Social Club coach, which will leave Kingsholm at about 12.15, stop at Aylestone Road long enough for a noggin after the game, and leave at about 6.00. Cost £2.50.

Andy Mitchell's famous safari (which is all right, safari's it goes) will cost £3.00, and leaves Kingsholm at 10.00 a.m., stops at a hostelry which past voyagers will have fond memories of, for a quick lunch and assorted refreshments, proceed to Leicester and eventually find itself back at the same pub for further reinforcement.

So, if you're one of Andy's regulars, or have ambitions in that direction, better see him quite quickly.

Bridgend on Saturday

On the Fifth Day of Christmas My True Love Sent to Me — Bridgend, in all their glory. I shouldn't, if I were you, be put off by the fact that they had a fearful hammering at the hands of Neath, last week. That was their first loss in twelve matches, and, as Mr. Kipling would say, they're an exceedingly good side.

Well worth coming along for.

On New Year's Day, while we are watching the Romanians here, the lads will be away to Moseley, who are having a very good revival, partially sparked by Steve Boyle.

Then, on January 5th the London Scots are arriving, and they can always be relied upon for good entertainment. If you don't want to go to Leicester on January 12th, don't forget that United have a visit from their own brand of Tigers. Someone is going to have to suffer for their recent loss of form, and it could just be Leicester.

Surprising!

My anonymous correspondent who sends me statistics, now and then, came up with a rather surprising comparison, recently. He has tabulated the First XV results until the end of November, and compared them with the record of the all-conquering 1981/2 side over the same period. As follows:

1981/2	Played 23	Won 20	Drawn 1	Lost 2	Points For 525	Against 126
1984/5	Played 25	Won 17	Drawn 0	Lost 8	Points For 553	Against 318

He points out that today's fixture list is fractionally stronger, and that in 1981 most of the Welsh sides were played at Kingsholm, which does make a difference. As he says, "They ain't such a bad lot after all!"

Tailpiece

My favourite remark at the Coventry game came from the character who watched Derek Morgan score his fourth try, and then shouted, "Don't worry Cov. He'll declare in 15 minutes!"

PETER ARNOLD.

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