

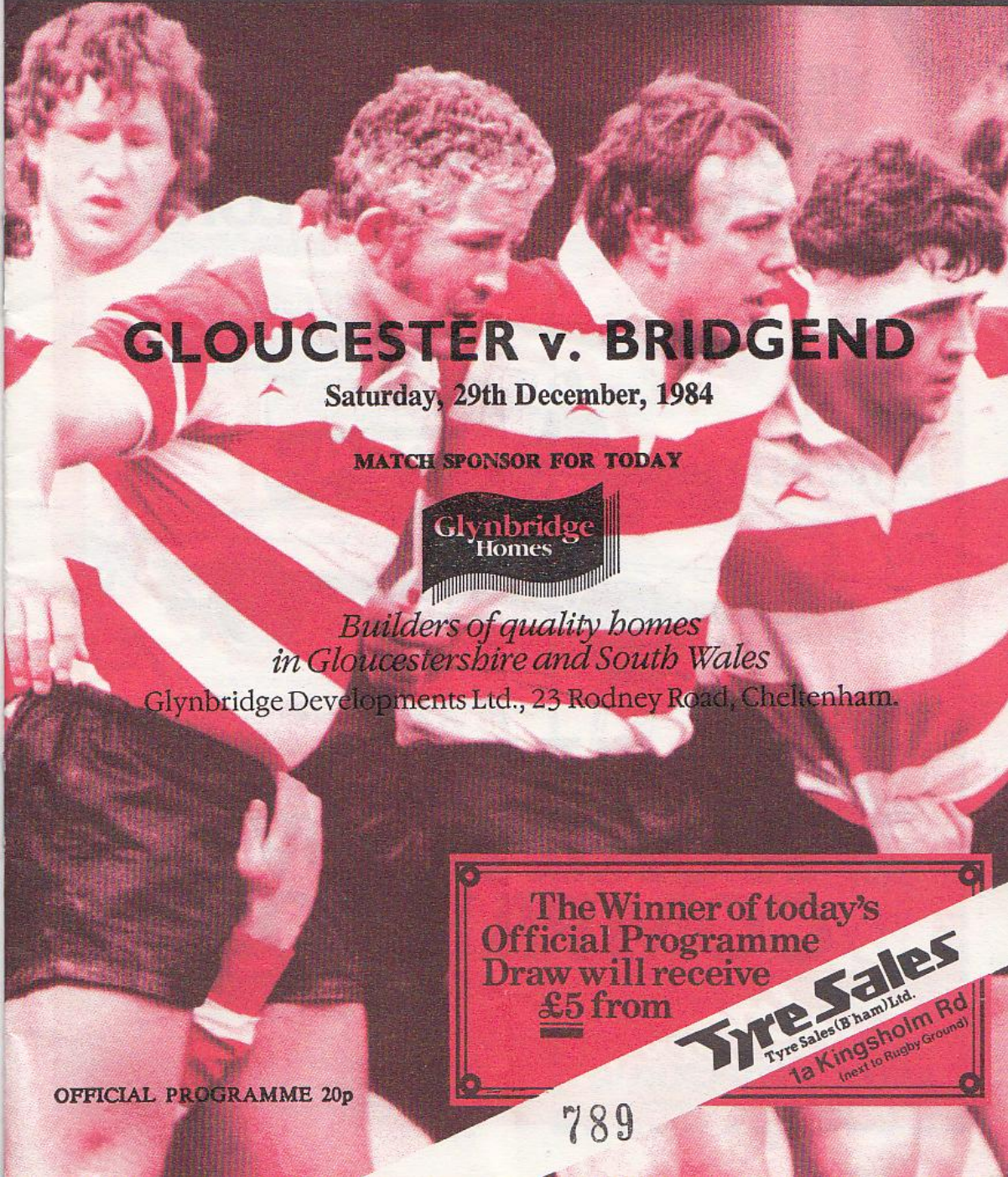


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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



GLOUCESTER v. BRIDGEND

Saturday, 29th December, 1984

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MATCH SPONSOR FOR TODAY



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

BRIDGEND

Full Back

† 15. H. Davies

Three Quarters

† 14. M. Titley

13. S. Parfitt

12. S. Brown

11. G. Webb

Half Backs

10. J. Stephenson

9. K. Ellis

Forwards

† 1. I. Stephens

2. C. Hillman

3. P. Davis

4. A. Owen

5. W. R. Howe

6. D. Arthur

7. M. Budd

† 8. G. Williams (Capt.)

REPLACEMENTS

H. Llewellyn

W. Hall

Referee: P. RUSSELL (London Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



The Old Year goes out in style

Somehow, it seems appropriate to be seeing 1984 out by playing a side which is normally based on a ground called Brewery Field, but I don't suppose Peter Ford took that into account when arranging the fixture.

He was obviously more interested in securing games against a side which can justly claim to be one of the most distinguished in Wales — which means in the world — and which we haven't played as regularly as we would have liked, over the past few seasons, because of the demands of Welsh Cup matches, John Player games and inhospitable weather.

None of those factors interfered last season, however, when Gloucester lost at Bridgend by 32 points to 15. If this sounds an uncomfortable experience, then perhaps it should be taken in context. Last season, Bridgend scored no less than 1,596 points, and ran in a mammoth 269 tries, 107 of those by the wingers.

Mark Tittley scored 42 of them, which is a post-war club record, so it isn't really surprising that he rapidly established himself as an International wing. At that, he was only one of five Bridgend players who passed the 100 point mark, with full back Howell Davies only failing to quadruple that figure by 10 points. He, of course, also set a Welsh record by scoring 39 points in Five Nations Championship matches in his first season in the berth.

So there's no shortage of pedigree in the Bridgend team. They're a genuinely class side (Neath, notwithstanding), and a tough nut to crack by anyone's standards. And I don't suppose that they'll be taking it at all easily, just because we're in the Season of Goodwill.

I hope I'm not sounding too pessimistic about all this — just giving credit where it is due. We have, after all, seen Gloucester do some pretty impressive things at Kingsholm of late, and you never know with our lot, do you?

Whatever happens, however, it's great to see Bridgend again, and we bid them a very warm welcome, coupled with all our good wishes for the rest of this season, and for the whole of 1985.

Two-horse race

Talking about wingers, we have quite a nice little contest of our own going on about now. I'm told that, by the end of November, Nick Price and Derek Morgan had scored 10 tries each. If United matches are taken into account, Morgan had run in 17 tries, and Price 15.

Of course, both of them have increased those tallies significantly in the last month, and there still can't be much between them.

Who'd have thought, only a couple of years ago, that both of the Club's leading try scorers would be playing on the wings, or that in one match, they would have notched up 7 tries between them.

Terry O'Connor, John Reason, et al. please note.

What's in a name?

Quite a lot, if you happen to be a company called Glynbridge Developments and are sponsoring a Gloucester v. Bridgend game.

I'm told that today's generous Sponsors were founded by Mr. Glyn Davies, who came from Bridgend. Hence the name of his company. It is therefore entirely appropriate that they should choose today's little tea party for their invaluable support.

Bridgend roots they may well have, but there's no doubt at all where their allegiance lies these days. Glynbridge Developments are very much a local company, based in Rodney Road, Cheltenham, and specialising in the building of genuine quality houses, on selected sites in Gloucestershire and South Wales.

They have been established for over 10 years, now, and have made a conscious decision to limit their rate of growth so as to be able to concentrate on efficient, personal service; qualities for which they have an enviable reputation. Buyers, I'm told, quickly find that Glynbridge give them more for their money, owing to the company's insistence on value and attention to detail.

Glynbridge concentrate on small developments on selected, quality sites. The homes themselves are built to blend with the surroundings, and are carefully located near amenities and leisure facilities.

The policy is "convenience and luxury at affordable prices", and that policy seems unlikely to change. The present Managing Director is the son of the original Glyn Davies who put the 'Glyn' in 'Glynbridge'.

Today, Bridgend are supplying the other half. It's nice that this afternoon splices the two strands, and all our thanks and good wishes are obviously a 'must'.

Romania

You won't need reminding that Romania are trying conclusions with the South and South West, right here, next Tuesday. Today, therefore, is your last chance to acquire tickets. If any stand seats are still available, they cost £5.00, and ground tickets are £2.00.

The Club would be very grateful if you would acquire your tickets before the game, and avoid the crush which is quite likely to occur when people from all over the South West converge on Kingsholm.

Similarly, you'd be doing yourself a favour if you take your place a few minutes earlier than usual — taking advantage of the pre-match entertainment, which is to be provided by the 'Blue Devils' Marching Band. We'd hate you to miss the kick-off because of the rucks and mauls at the turnstiles.

We've all seen what Romania have done to Wales and Scotland, but that was on their own patch. It will be interesting to see if they travel as well as they play at home.

And, incidentally, don't forget your Social Club Membership Card if you want to get into the bar, after the game.

Tripping up the 'Tigers'

Talking of the Social Club, don't forget that they're running a coach to Leicester, cost £2.50. See John Beaman. Andy Mitchell is also operating his usual pilgrimage, costing £3.00. He's probably fairly full by now — and so is his coach — but you never know your luck.

John Player Cup

Tickets for the Stand for the JPC game against Richmond will be on sale next Saturday, at the London Scottish game. This is the only First XV match we have between now and January 26th, although the tickets will obviously be on sale at the United games with Leicester (January 12th) and Cleve (January 19th). Naturally, you'll also be able to get them at the usual contact points around the City, including David Foyle's week-day place of endeavour Sandoe Luce Panes in Brunswick Road.

Please note; there will be no ground tickets, so all the remarks about getting tickets beforehand and getting along a bit early made about the Romanian game, apply here also.

As you'll probably remember, John Player games are 'all pay' affairs. Not only will your season ticket get you precisely nowhere, but you'll have to pay to park your Alfa Romeo, too. There isn't anything the Club can do about this — the Powers That Be aren't about to change the rules of the competition just for us.

Pity — but Richmond are, after all, entitled to their share of the proceeds.

Never mind — if Gloucester put 30 points on them, you won't worry too much about paying for a parking space, will you?

County Cup Final

I seem to have mentioned just about all the Forthcoming Attractions with the exception of the rearranged County Cup Final, which will now take place at 7.00 on Tuesday, January 8th. Normal Club prices will apply, and Berry Hill v. Coney Hill must be worth every penny.

Perhaps this is an appropriate point to wish every success to Berry Hill on their trip to Bath for the John Player. Of course, the odds must be against them — but stranger things have happened.

Tailpiece

May I give you my personal good wishes for 1985? And thanks for all the comments and suggestions — some of which are actually printable — which these notes inspire. They are helpful, I assure you.

See you next year. Frequently.

PETER ARNOLD.