

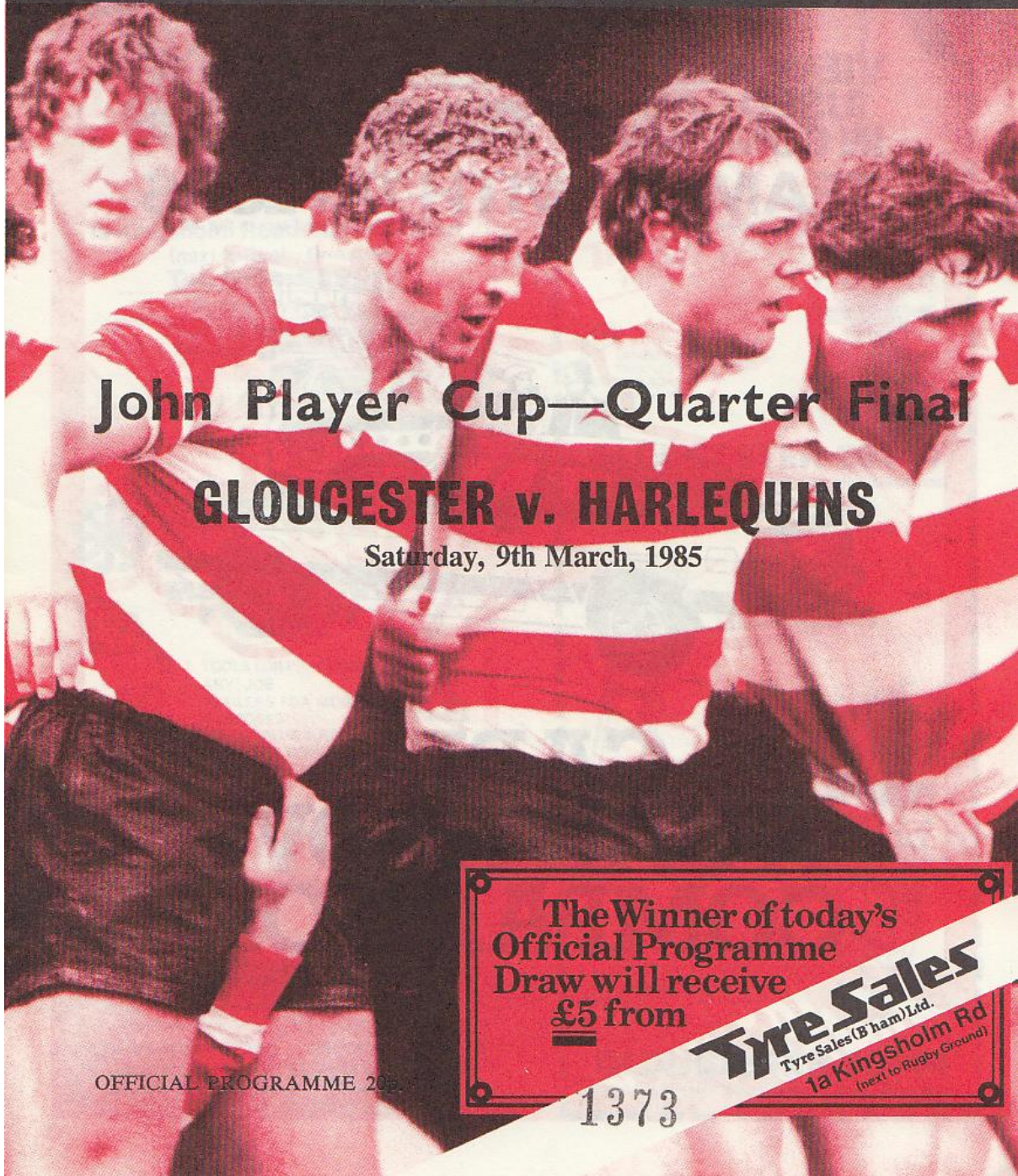


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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



John Player Cup—Quarter Final

GLOUCESTER v. HARLEQUINS

Saturday, 9th March, 1985

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

Tyre Sales
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GLOUCESTER 31

Cherry & White (2G; 1T; 5P)

Full Back
15. T. Smith 19PTS

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

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

Forwards
† 1. P. Blakeway
2. K. White
3. R. Pascall
† 4. J. Orwin (Capt.)
5. J. Brain
6. J. Gadd
7. I. Smith
† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

P. Kingston †
S. Mills †

HARLEQUINS 12

(1G; 2P)

Full Back
† 15. M. Rose

Three Quarters
14. A. Dent
13. A. Thompson
† 12. J. Salmon
† 11. W. Jefferson

Half Backs
10. R. Cramb
9. A. Woodhouse

Forwards
† 1. I. Milne
2. J. Oler
3. P. Curtis
4. R. Longhorn
† 5. B. Cuthbertson
† 6. D. Cooke (Capt.)
7. E. Weekes
† 8. C. Butcher

REPLACEMENTS

Referee: D. LESLIE (Manchester Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



'Quins in the Quarters

Harlequins do have one advantage over the two other sides which have tried conclusions with us in the Cup this season, in that this is their second visit to Kingsholm in the past few months. Not, I think, that they'll particularly want to remember that occasion having conceded a 19-6 scoreline, but they can claim to have been a few people short on that occasion.

On the other hand, so can Gloucester. There was no Pascal, no Blakeway (or Preedy, for that matter) and no John Orwin. Tim Smith didn't play, and neither did Richard Mogg. So, on paper at least, the two sides look fairly well matched.

Indeed, the game fairly bristles with interesting comparisons — Blakeway v. Milne, for example, Orwin v. Cuthbertson, Gadd and Teague v. Butcher and Cooke. And there are four speedy wingers on view.

We should also remember that Harlequins have a formidable record in the John Player over the past few seasons. Indeed, you have to go back several years before you find a campaign which didn't feature the 'Quins at Quarter Final stage. Last year they reached the Semis, where Bristol just about outlasted them after the London club had built up a more-than-handly lead.

Nevertheless, it's always good to see Harlequins at Kingsholm. They have been coming here, it sometimes seems, since William Webb Ellis, and have invariably given us some great entertainment. Today's meeting, in that sense, is 'bunce'.

I wouldn't claim to be anything put partisan, on this occasion — you wouldn't believe me if I did — but it's still a pleasure to welcome Harlequins again, and we all hope they have a great time while they're here.

Welcome back!

It will be nice to see 'the old firm' of Mike Teague and John Gadd back in harness today. 'Gaddy's' return is a bonus that none of us expected, a week or two ago, and although we've managed perfectly well without him, it's great to see him back.

A word, also, of welcome to Steve Mills, on the replacement bench today. The White/Mills choice must have been a considerable headache for Alan Brinn and his Selectors, and that's one argument I'm not going to get into.

One thought occurs, however. As Peter Kingston is the other replacement, we can say that, while Harlequins are a side studded with English, Scottish, New Zealand and American Internationals, we have two replacements with five Caps each.

A 'Fiver' to Hucclecote

When Roger Glassonbury, of Hucclecote, came along to the Northampton game, not only did he see some remarkable rugby, but he won £5.00, courtesy, as always, of Tyre Sales Limited, by buying the lucky programme. The ticket was No. 78. Perhaps if he'd brought No. 33 1/3 it would have taken longer to go round.

Well done, Roger!

Bad luck Mike!

Commiserations to Mike Teague on not retaining his England place, having had it rudely snatched from him by a spell of Welsh winter weather. I suppose the only consolation is that Mr. Waters of Newport has even more cause to be disappointed.

. . . but good luck to Phil and John

It wasn't really any surprise that Phil Blakeway and John Orwin kept their places, however. Everyone at Kingsholm will be rooting for you lads, when you take on the Scots. Indeed, today's fracas will be a useful run-out for you, with Messrs Milne and Cuthbertson on view.

Thanks again!

This is the third time in six weeks that I have had the pleasant duty of thanking the John Player organisation for their continued support for the John Player Special Cup competition. This means that I haven't really got anything new to say, but I think it's important that we continue to record our appreciation for their generosity, nonetheless. A large number of Clubs, large and small, have reaped the benefit, over the years, and perhaps Gloucester, who won the first national knock-out competition, is the club which should keep reminding people of that fact. Whatever their views on smoking.

Coincidence Corner

Has it occurred to you that we should have been away to Richmond, who we beat two rounds ago, if there hadn't been a Cup match today? If Gloucester win this game, then we shall have to call off our match on March 23rd, which just happens to be an away game against Saracens — who, of course, we beat last time around.

But there's another coincidence in the offing too. If we win today, we could be drawn away to London Welsh, assuming they win too. And London Welsh in the Semi Final is a prospect that takes some of us back a bit.

Incidentally, if it's applicable, we only have one home match, and that on a Friday, before the Semi Finals, so I imagine the ticket arrangement would be very like those which were used this time.

Got your cards?

Just the usual reminder that, if you fancy a drink after the game, you'll need your Social Club Membership card, or your Complex pass to get into the Clubhouse.

Orrell next Friday

Next Friday — Saturday being Calcutta Cup Day — we are due to receive a visit from the formidable Orrell side, who put it across Bristol so convincingly a couple of weeks ago. I shouldn't think many people will want to miss that one. As already mentioned, the Saturday after that, March 23rd, we are due to be away to Saracens, but the Cup could get in the way, depending on today's result.

Whatever your fixture card says, the Moseley game has been brought forward to Friday, March 29th, because of the rearranged England v. Ireland match, a development which will also enable you to watch the Grand National, if your tastes run that way.

But there are plenty of other things going on, as well. United are at home to Pontypridd on March 23rd, although the Cup could disrupt that, too.

Following that, the Colts will be taking on their opposite numbers from Bath on Wednesday March 27th, right here at Kingsholm, and those games are always worth watching.

Finally, don't forget that the ill-fated County Cup Final is now due to be played on Tuesday, March 19th, and I would have thought that interest in that confrontation spreads far beyond the confines of Coney Hill and Berry Hill.

Divided loyalties?

It's nice to welcome Phil Cooke our City Deputy Leisure Services Officer, today. He does have something of a problem, though. Having played on the flank at Harlequins with David Cooke, he is tempted to shout for his old Club, but being now employed by the City, is honour bound to support Gloucester.

I'm told he's considering wearing his Harlequins Player's tie together with a Gloucester sweater. Case for spontaneous combustion, I should have thought.

Tailpiece

Ray Stevens, uncle of our revered Eric, pointed out, the other day, that Wales have a Holmes and a Moriarty playing for them. "Where," he enquires, "is Doctor Watson?"

I can't find any record of anyone called 'Watson' ever playing for Wales. There was, however, a J. H. Watson (right initials) who played for Blackheath and England in 1914, so perhaps Rugby was one of the several things which Holmes and Watson disagreed about.

There was also another 'Watson', of United Services who played for England, one Cap from Ireland, and surprisingly only two Scots.

Elementary.

PETER ARNOLD.