

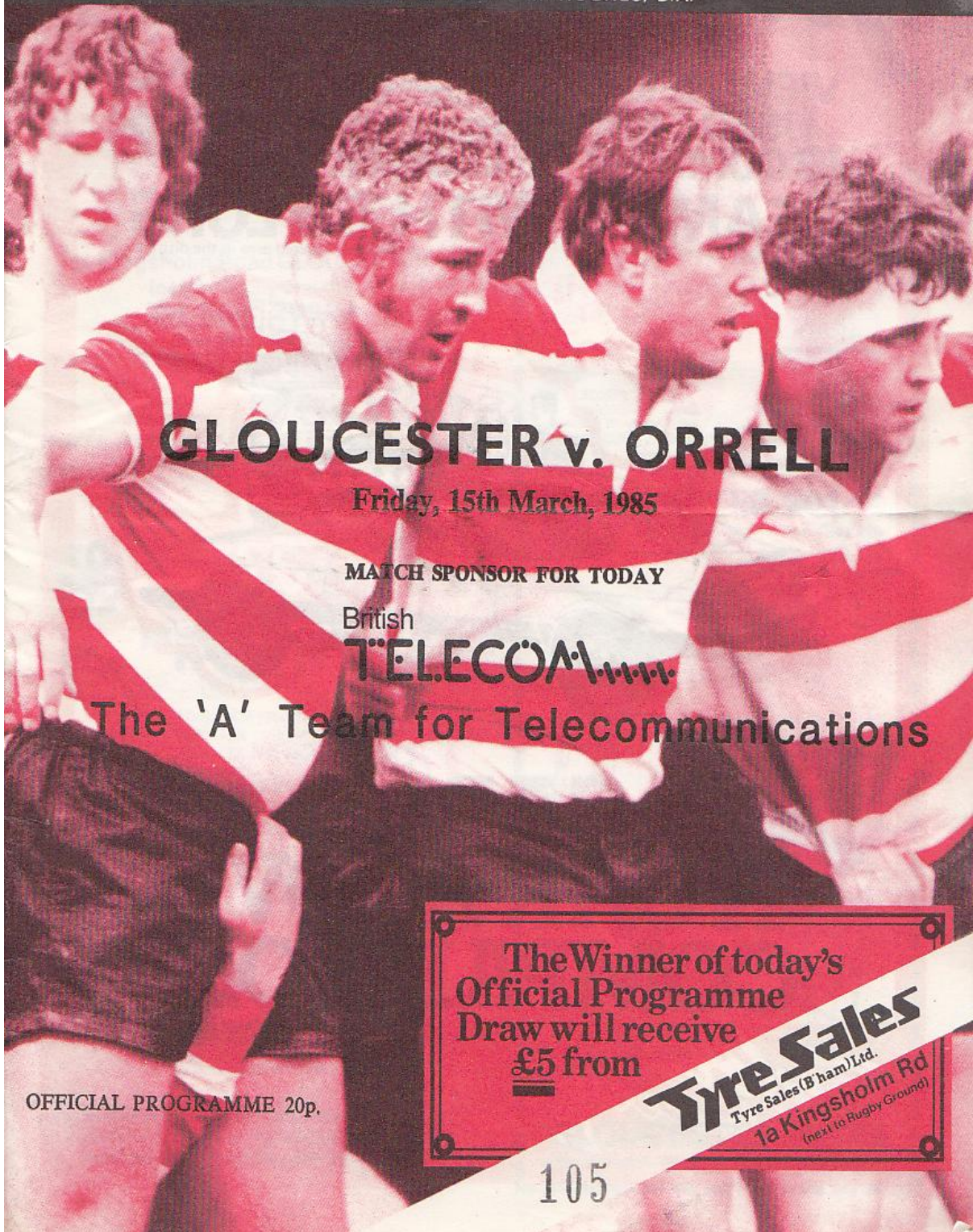


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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



GLOUCESTER v. ORRELL

Friday, 15th March, 1985

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British
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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.	P. Kingston
Forwards	
† 1.	M. Preedy
2.	K. White
3.	R. Pascall
4.	N. Scrivens
5.	J. Brain
6.	J. Gadd
7.	I. Smith
8.	L. Cummins
REPLACEMENTS	
	R. Wood
	G. Mann

ORRELL

Full Back	
15.	S. Langford
Three Quarters	
14.	P. Halsall
13.	N. McDowell
12.	G. Ainscow
11.	I. Wilkinson
Half Backs	
10.	G. Glynn
9.	G. Williams
Forwards	
1.	K. Fletcher
2.	N. Hitchin
3.	D. Southern (Capt.)
4.	M. Glynn
5.	C. Cusani
6.	C. Ashurst
7.	D. Balmer
8.	P. Moss
REPLACEMENTS	
	P. Williams
	P. Burns

Referee: L. PEARD (Welsh Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



The road from Wigan Pier

I suppose that, if you're mere West Country folk like us, there are only two things you know about Wigan. One is the legendary Pier, and the other is Orrell RFC. But while one might chuckle about Wigan Pier, tonight's visitors, who hail from just down the road, are not to be taken anything but seriously. They'll certainly provide a stiff workout for next week's John Player shoot-out.

That's not the only reason we're glad to see them. They are, in fact, the first Northern side we've seen since Broughton Park, who also come from the Greater Manchester area, back in November. If you're a believer in omens, you might take heart from the fact that we won that one, 49-3, but I wouldn't count on it, if I were you.

Last year, at Edge Hall Road, we came away with a 20-6 victory, but it's worth remembering that Orrell started last season by winning every game until they lost to Wasps in the fourth round of the John Player, after which they did fall away. Nevertheless, they won 36 games and totalled over 1,100 points.

They don't show many signs of post-Christmas blues this year. Ask Bristol, who got a right going over by the Lancashire lads.

I could be wrong, but I don't ever recall entertaining Orrell under lights before. I'm sure we all respect our visitors for agreeing to make a longish trek, there and back, for an evening game, and we're grateful to them.

So the lads in black-and-amber are extremely welcome. They'll find things a bit different here since two years ago, and we hope that contributes to their enjoyment of the evening.

Thanks again, Telecom

British Telecom are one of that select band of generous Sponsors, who have supported two games this season. They did, in fact, help us out on the very first game of the season, when we lost a thriller to Swansea by just one point in 39, so we hope they get equal value for their money tonight.

Since then, of course, things have happened to Telecom. Ever since February 1st, they have been operating under a new structure, having yielded their area status to a larger Regional one, incorporating the old areas of Gloucester and Bristol.

But Telecom's Roger Lindsey insists that this isn't just a bureaucratic reshuffle, pointing out that they now have greater autonomy reporting directly to British Telecom HQ in London, without having to filter everything through an intervening region, as they had to in the past.

"To the punter on the touchline," writes Roger, "very little will change. Three local Customer Service Areas will make sure that grass-roots contact is maintained, through all the existing offices, shops and telephone contact points."

He also points out that our own Andrew Hurley, who was General Manager here for eight years, has secured the top job, and he wouldn't be human if he didn't keep an eye on his old patch. Martin Mahoney, who also knows Gloucester well, has taken over responsibility for Customer Service.

"We have something to blow our trumpet about" Roger concludes. That's why we've brought the Blue Devils Marching Band along."

Come to think of it, I don't think I've seen them under lights before, either. But their arrival is just one more thing to thank British Telecom for.

Crunch!

I suppose it had to happen. After the niggly game at Bath — which we shouldn't have lost — and the disappearance of the Bath game at Kingsholm due to the weather, the Fates were sure to decree that a head-to-head with our West Country rivals should take place, somehow. To meet them in the JPC Semis adds even more spice to what would, in any case, have been a tremendous occasion.

Most people would, I think, agree that Bath were always the team to beat if anyone else is going to win the Cup. You'd also agree that we have a better chance of beating them here at Kingsholm than at either Bath or Twickenham, so looked at that way, this is the best draw we could have had.

The Bath lads are making belligerent noises, but behind all the psyching up, I'm sure this is the draw they didn't want. But then — neither did anyone else.

It's sure to be one Hell of a game, and if they can beat us here, then good luck to them.

Tickets

Fundamentally, the arrangements for tickets will be the same as for Harlequins — Stand tickets at £2.50 in the Caravan, Ground tickets in the Secretary's Office and at the old office on the St. Mark's Street side.

There are a couple of differences, however. First, as you might expect, Bath have taken up their whole ticket allocation, which means that Centre Stand tickets will only be available to Centre Stand season ticket holders, in the first instance. Any still remaining will be on sale after the County Cup Final game next Tuesday.

Second, you'll notice that Ground tickets have gone up from £1.40 to £1.50. This is simply because change was proving difficult at the old figure. Anyway, you won't grudge an extra 10p for this one, will you?

Yes — there is life after the Cup

Of course, we're all extremely preoccupied with the Bath game, at the moment, which is a useful bonus, because we were due to play away that day. However, it's worth remembering that the Cup isn't the be-all and end-all of the season, and that there are still a fair few goodies to come.

To start with, we have another Cup. After fits and starts, the eagerly anticipated County Cup Final between Coney Hill and Berry Hill takes place at 7.00 on March 19th — next Tuesday, as ever was. Students of the local scene won't want to miss that, especially as both sides qualify for next season's John Player. Which is more than Gloucester can say at the moment.

Then, on Friday 29th — note the change of date — we have the much improved Moseley side here. Personally, I was a bit surprised when their deadly rivals Coventry beat them in the Cup. Wonder if Steve Boyle will come?

Make a note, too, that there's another Bath confrontation in the offing. Gloucester Colts play Bath Colts, right here, on Wednesday, March 27th. Reg Collins pointed out, the other day, that at least 10 of the side which beat Harlequins came to Senior Rugby through the Colts route, and I don't suppose that many leading Clubs can match that. Bath certainly can't.

There's another late switch, too. Our away game at Cheltenham has now been switched to next Monday evening, if you fancy a trot down the road. It certainly allows more time for players to get over bumps and bruises before the Cup game.

So there's no need to suffer from Rugby starvation. See you at most of them.

Best of luck lads

I must, of course, wish all the very best to John Orwin and Phil Blakeway — who will be renewing his long-running battle with Ian Milne — in tomorrow's Calcutta Cup match. And the same goes for Mike Teague, if he gets on.

Whether you're going to Twickenham, or are watching as consenting adults in private in front of your telly, I'm sure you'll be shouting your heads off for them.

But please chaps — don't get hurt!

Tailpiece

Mention of the Blue Devils Marching Band prompts me to say how much we welcome their increasingly regular visits. Even if it did entail slogging through mud on New Year's Day.

But they are now becoming so familiar to us that shouldn't they change their name to the 'Cherry-and-White Devils'?

PETER ARNOLD.