

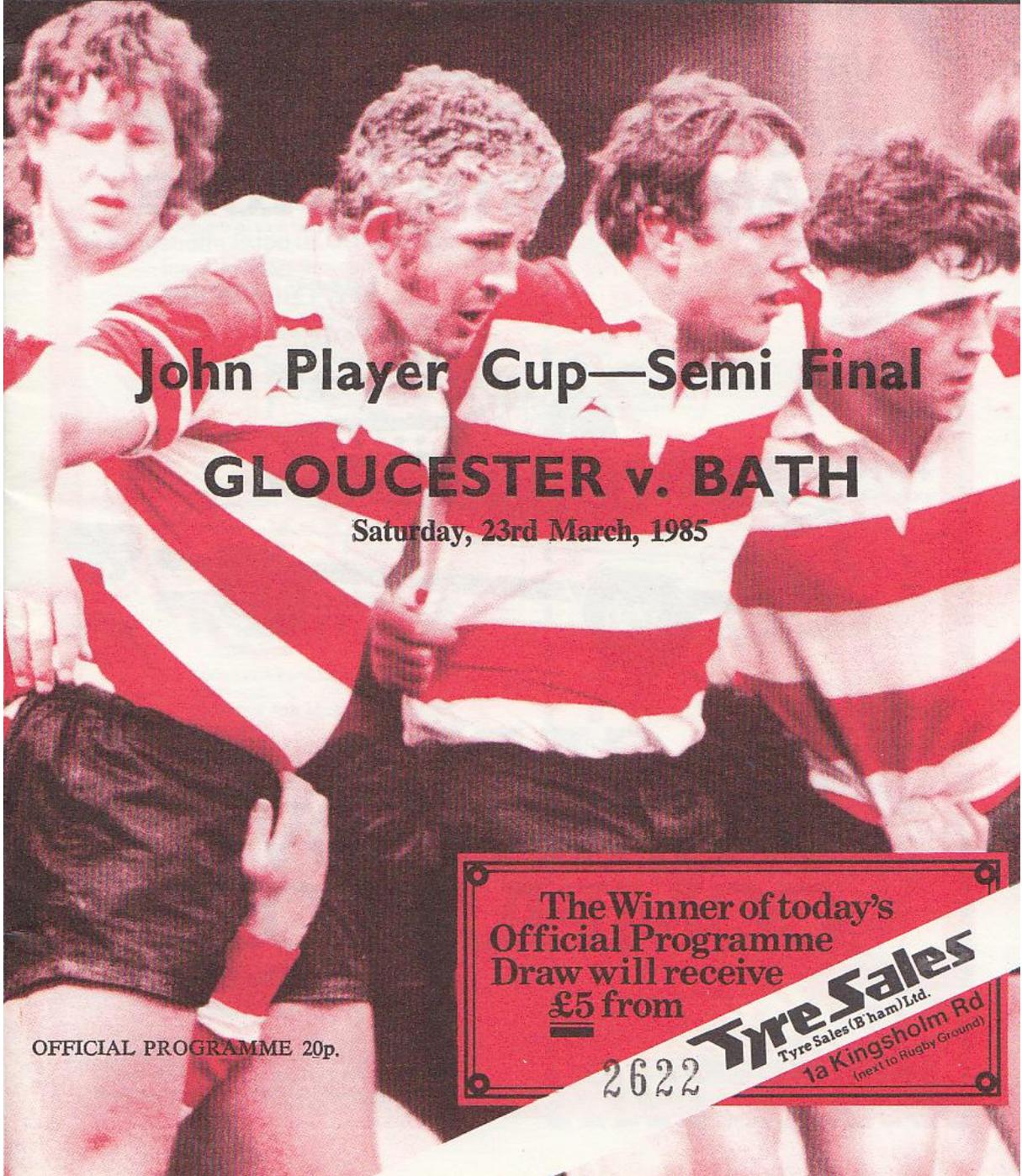


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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



John Player Cup—Semi Final

GLOUCESTER v. BATH

Saturday, 23rd March, 1985

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p.

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GLoucester 11

(Cherry & White) (2T; 1PG)

Full Back
15. T. Smith 2T; 1PG

Three Quarters
14. D. Morgan
13. R. Mogg
12. P. Taylor (Capt.)
11. N. Price

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

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

Replacements: 16. J. Breeze, 17. D. Pointon, 18. P. Kingston†, 19. M. Preedy†, 20. S. Mills†, 21. D. Spencer

BATH 12

(1G; 1DG; 1PG)

Full Back
† 16. C. R. Martin

Three Quarters
† 15. D. M. Trick
† 14. J. A. Palmer
12. A. Rees
11. B. Trevaskis

Half Backs
† 10. J. P. Horton
† 9. R. C. Hill

Forwards
† 1. G. Chilcott
2. G. Bess
3. R. Lee
4. N. Gaymond
† 5. N. Redman
† 6. R. Spurrell
† 7. J. Hall
† 8. P. Simpson

Replacements: 17. R. Palmer, 18. J. Guscott, 19. C. Stanley, 20. D. M. Sole, 21. J. Deane, 22. D. Egerton

Referee: L. PRIDEAU (N. Midlands Society)

Touch Judges: B. ABRAHAMS (E. Mid.); A. SAVAGE (N. Mid.)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



The sharp end

At last, the 1984/5 Season has crystallised itself down to one sharp point. And this is it. Having been deprived of our home match with Bath by the weather, we now face an even greater challenge, by facing them in the Cup Semi Final. There seems to be a poetic justice about it.

I suppose that most people south of a line from — say — Birmingham to Dover would agree that this is the game which should have been the Final. Bath are worthy Cup Holders indeed, having beaten the previous incumbents, who just happened to be Bristol, by one point at Twickenham. And I don't have to remind you that Gloucester shared the title the year before that, so the wheel has come full circle, even if it is 'only' in a Semi Final.

So what about today? Much has been made of the fact that Bath haven't won here since 1968, but you'll remember that, two seasons ago, they drew with us 9-9, and by doing so probably deprived us of our entry into last season's competition. So perhaps today's encounter has been building up since then.

Subsequently, Bath have beaten Gloucester at Bath twice — but got rather a good going over at Kingsholm in December '83, so options really are open.

There is another point which may, or may not, be significant. 14 of today's announced Bath side played in the pulsating win at Twickenham last season, the only change being at hooker. By contrast, only a handful of Gloucester players had JPC experience before this season. I'm not sure whether that's good or bad for anyone, but it adds spice to the event, for Gloucester can really claim to be taking on the Cup Holders, and not just a team bearing the same name.

Whatever happens today, we're going to have a West Country side at Twickenham — and that will be the fourth year in a row that we can make that claim. For that reason alone Bath would be very welcome today, as indeed they always are.

Well — whether your eyesight is blue, black and white, or cherry and white today, there's nothing more you can do for the lads but shout your bloomin' heads off. And I'm sure you'll do just that.

The rules

It's worth noting that there are important variations in the rules governing the game when we reach Semi Final stage.

You'll have seen from your programme that six named replacements are allowed, although of course, only two of them can be used.

Veterans of that Moseley Final will also be intrigued to note that, should scores be level, and everything else be equal as well, after 80 minutes, the 'away team' rule doesn't apply. It's a ten-minutes-each-way job.

But perhaps the change which is likely to have most immediate impact on the game concerns the Officials. Touch judges are qualified referees and may, if they wish, intervene and assist the referee.

So that's a few more things to think about.

Best wishes from the Skipper

John Orwin buttonholed me at the Cheltenham game last Monday. He asked me to give the lads all his good wishes, and, obviously very much regrets that he's not going to be part of it all.

So do we, John. So do we.

"I'll be with you in spirit" he said, "And you can bet that I'll run off the field at Twickenham and straight to a telephone!"

I'll bet he will, too.

Disco

Members might like to know that the Players are staging one of their disco extravaganzas in the Complex on April 6th, which just happens to be Easter Saturday, and the day of the New Brighton game. Proceeds are, as always, to the Players' Fund, and anyone wanting tickets should talk to Jeremy Bennett, or any other player for that matter.

Well, why not? Could be a good way to digest the hot cross buns.

Bath night again

Today's visitors aren't the only attractive Bath team around, you know — and we're expecting a visit from another, next Wednesday.

Gloucester Colts are entertaining their opposite numbers from that fair city on March 27th, and we hear they are bringing some good lads along.

You can bet that the occasion will be contested just as forthrightly as today's little tribal feast, and Colts Rugby is always worth a little of your time anyway. Why not come along?

On the Boyle?

While I'm on the subject of forthcoming attractions, you may not have caught up with the fact that the Moseley game, scheduled for next Saturday, has been switched to Friday evening — March 29th. This is to avoid the clash with the rearranged England v. Ireland game, which now has Triple Crown connotations, of course.

Wonder if that distinguished alumnus of Gloucester RFC, Steve Boyle will come along? Pity we can't see him meeting John Orwin in the front of the line.

On April 4th (Thursday) the lads are away to Lydney, and after that we're into the Easter games — New Brighton on Easter Saturday and Fylde on Easter Monday.

So the world doesn't begin and end with the John Player. Even if it does seem like it, just at the moment.

Congratulations all round

As always, congratulations to Philip Blakeway and John Orwin on keeping their England spots — not, in my opinion, that there was much doubt about it after the Calcutta Cup game.

Today's visitors being who they are, it would also be churlish of me if I didn't extend the same felicitations to Bath's Chris Martin and John Hall on keeping their places too. Even if John's selection does keep our own Mike Teague on the benches, a distinction he shares with Bath's Richard Hill.

We can guess how Richard must feel. It must be a bit depressing to have acted as reserve so loyally, and then not get the chance to step up when your competition gets his drop.

Got your card?

You wouldn't be human if you didn't want to talk about the game afterwards, but, once again, I must tell you that you won't be able to do it in the Clubhouse or the Complex if you haven't got the appropriate admission cards today. Sorry, but accommodation will only stand so much.

Well done the Foresters!

Congratulations to Berry Hill on retaining the County Championship, in a match which moved even such a stern critic as referee Roger Quittenden to glowing praise. Wonder how Bath feel at the prospect of meeting them in the JPC again next season?

Hard luck Coney Hill. But, at least, they've already qualified for the 1985/86 John Player. Which is more than we can say.

Tailpiece

Welcome, today, to our old friend Nigel Starmer Smith, (Old Boy of Barnwood C. of E. School).

Nice to see you Nigel, and we've forgotten all about your famous "real shock" comment when Gloucester beat Gosforth, who were also Cup Holders at the time, in the Cup in 1978. Honest we have.

PETER ARNOLD.