

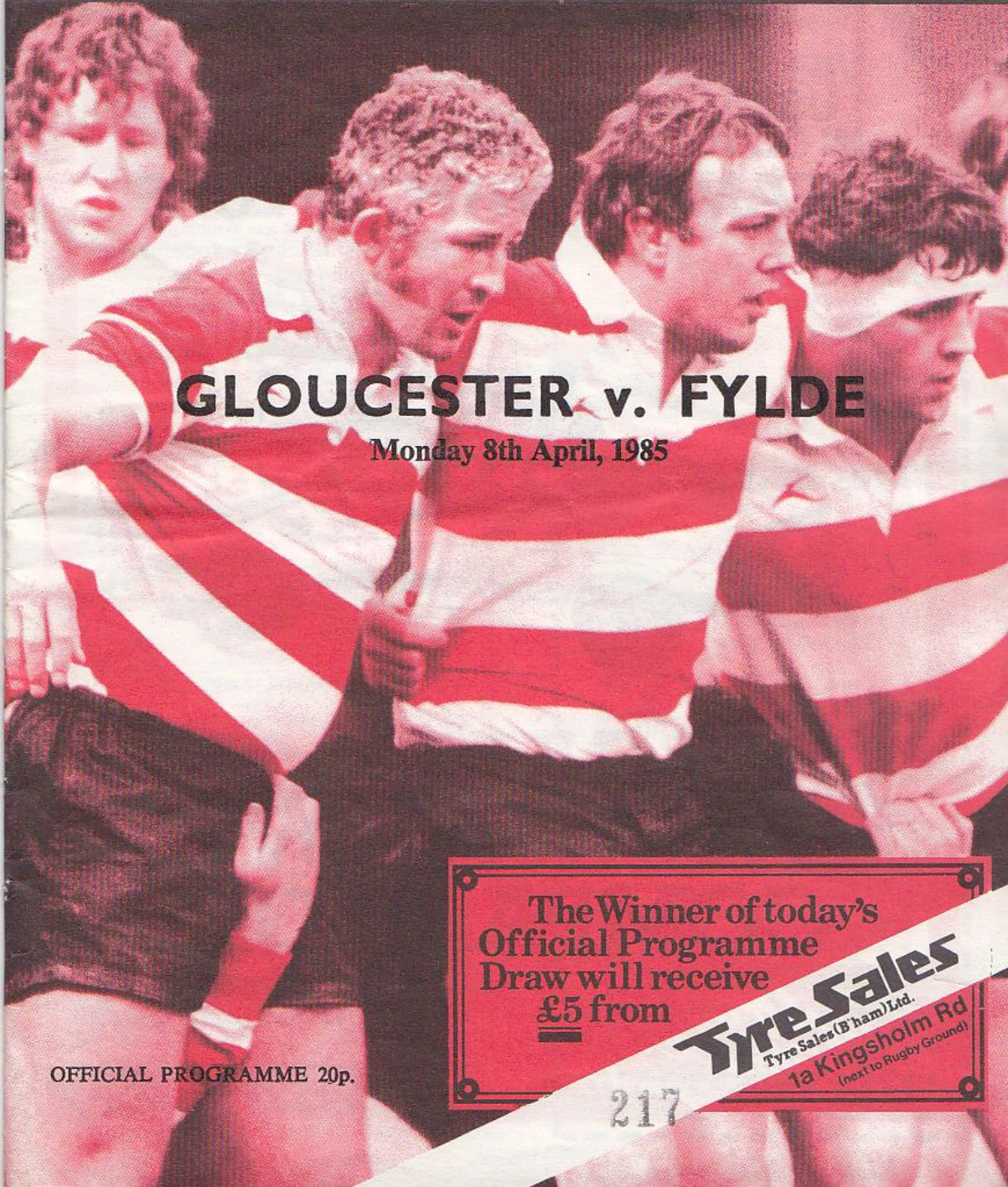


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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



GLOUCESTER v. FYLDE

Monday 8th April, 1985

The Winner of today's
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GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. T. Smith

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

13. R. Mogg

12. P. Taylor

11. A. Richards

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. M. Hannaford

Forwards

† 1. M. Preedy

† 2. S. Mills

3. R. Pascall

† 4. J. Orwin (Capt.)

5. J. Brain

6. J. Gadd

7. I. Smith

8. J. Bennett

REPLACEMENTS

P. Kingston †

K. White

FYLDE

Full Back

15. L. Munday

Three Quarters

14. B. Hanavan

13. D. Tanner

12. I. Aspinall

11. J. Coughlin

Half Backs

10. G. Hughes

9. A. Weir

Forwards

1. S. Walker

2. M. Dixon

3. P. Faulkner

4. D. Young

† 5. S. Bainbridge

6. A. Simpson

7. R. Parr

8. A. MacFarlane (Capt.)

REPLACEMENTS

J. Russell

Referee: M. MORGAN (Bristol Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



Not-so-black Monday

I don't know about you, but I always get a sense of getting away with something when I come along to Kingsholm on a Monday afternoon. Even if it is Bank Holiday, the hormones seem to be trying to make the point that you should be out there, trying to earn a reasonably honest crust.

Stolen fruit was ever the sweetest, and this afternoon's occasion is made even more palatable by the fact that we have the pleasure of entertaining our old friends from Fylde, who we haven't seen for a year or two.

Which is not to say that our two clubs haven't met. Last season, we visited Lytham St. Annes, on a cold end-of-January day, and were tactless enough to score 34 points, while the home side were protecting a virgin scoresheet. Fylde, however, readily admit that 1983/4 was one of their less successful seasons, but can justifiably point to the fact that an end-of-season flourish retained their place in the Northern Merit Table — a goal which had seemed unobtainable only a few weeks before.

Same thing applies today. The end of the Rugby year could well be providing a platform for some good football.

You won't need reminding that, not so long ago, Fylde were a very real force, stimulated by the sizeable presence of one W. B. Beaumont, who is nowadays assisting Bill McLaren on televised International occasions, and who has been glowing in his praises for the three Gloucester lads who have graced the England side this season. But then, Bill does know a bit about forward play.

If for no other reason, today's visitors would be very welcome. As it is, there are many reasons for us to be glad to see them, not least the fact that we know we're in for the sort of attractive game which befits the Easter holidays.

One final thought, Fylde's colours are claret, gold and white — not dissimilar from our own Old Cryptians colours. I hope Marcus Hannaford and Nick Price, if they're playing, remember whose side they're on.

Barbarian Mike

There's no doubt that Mike Teague is the unluckiest man in the England squad this year, although Nigel Melville could lay claims to the same dubious distinction. To be called on to the field as a replacement, hold one's place for the following game, and then lose it again purely because the weather turned nasty, must be a considerable blow.

It's some consolation, therefore, to be selected for the Barbarians Easter Tour, and I'm sure that 'Teaguey's' type of play will fit right into the traditional Baa-Baa mould.

Good on yer, Mike.

Spring draws on

Friday, April 26th sees one of the more convivial events of the year. It's the night when Brian Howells, and his merry men, conduct the major draw for the 350 Club. The top prize will be £300, which isn't exactly beer money.

The actual draw will take place at about 9.30 p.m., which gives you a chance to get pleasantly relaxed before the vital moment arrives.

There's only one small fly in the ointment, and that's a fairly minor one, in that only a few blokes are involved. It appears that sheer amnesia has prevented just one or two participants from paying up and looking happy. The problem is that anyone who hasn't paid doesn't get their numbers into the hat. So it may be worth while checking to see if that small matter has slipped your mind.

United next Saturday

It's been a funny old season for the United. As you know, they started the season by positively assassinating everyone in sight, and then fell from grace somewhat. Nevertheless, they have never fallen far short of their own high standards of highly entertaining Rugby, and there is a clutch of fellows in that side who could expect to be welcomed with open arms by many of the leading clubs in the country.

They deserve our support, and as one of their two home games left this season is scheduled for next Saturday — against Bridgend Sports — you may well feel that you might come along and shout for them.

On the other hand . . .

Neath have been having a good season, and my Welsh espionage system seems to indicate that they have been playing attractive football, too. The First team visit them next Saturday, and the motorway system being what it is these days, you might feel it worthwhile to make the foray through enemy territory to see them.

After all, there aren't many chances left, until next September.

While I'm on the subject, apologies for the fact that you're going to have to make a rather nasty choice on April 20th. It's the last home game of the season, and the opposition is the redoubtable Sale side, who at the time of writing, lead the new National Merit Table with six wins out of six.

Unfortunately, Sale don't feel they can vary either the day, or the kick-off time, in spite of the fact that it clashes precisely with the England v. Wales game in Cardiff.

Sorry about that, but it's not Gloucester's fault.

Combination Cup Finals

If the County Cup Final is anything to go by, then local Rugby is producing some fine stuff, at the moment. So it could well be worthwhile coming along to the North Gloucestershire Combination Cup Finals in the last week in April, or thereabouts.

Can't be more precise than that, unfortunately. Exact dates haven't actually been agreed, although the matter may have been resolved by the time you read this.

The problem lies with the Exeter game on the 27th. As you know, that game has assumed an absolutely unparalleled importance, this season, owing to the Merit Table and John Player situation. Understandably, the lads are keen to keep up their two weekly training sessions right to the bitter end, whereas in previous seasons they wouldn't have worried too much.

The NGC appreciates all this, and I'm quite sure things will be sorted out, but all I can do at the moment is suggest you keep an ear open, or watch the Press, for dates.

Two-and-a-half-ton Tim

I must say, I didn't really hear anyone castigating Tim Smith for his missed kicks in the JPC Semi Final. Nevertheless, he himself couldn't have been happy about them. It was nice, therefore, to note that the whole thing has been put into perspective by the fact that he has now passed his 250 points for the season — not that all those came from kicks, by any means.

Of course, it's not quite too late to reach the 300.

Tailpiece

Lock forward Dick Burn has made quite an impression while he's been standing in for skipper John Orwin. Could the reason for his success lie in the realms of American folklore?

I was fascinated to learn that bespectacled Dick is known by the sobriquet of 'Clark Kent' to his teammates. So if Gloucester are ten points down, with five minutes to go, and some chap comes running on with his shorts outside his longjohns — you'll know who it is.

Hope you've had a happy Easter.

PETER ARNOLD.

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