

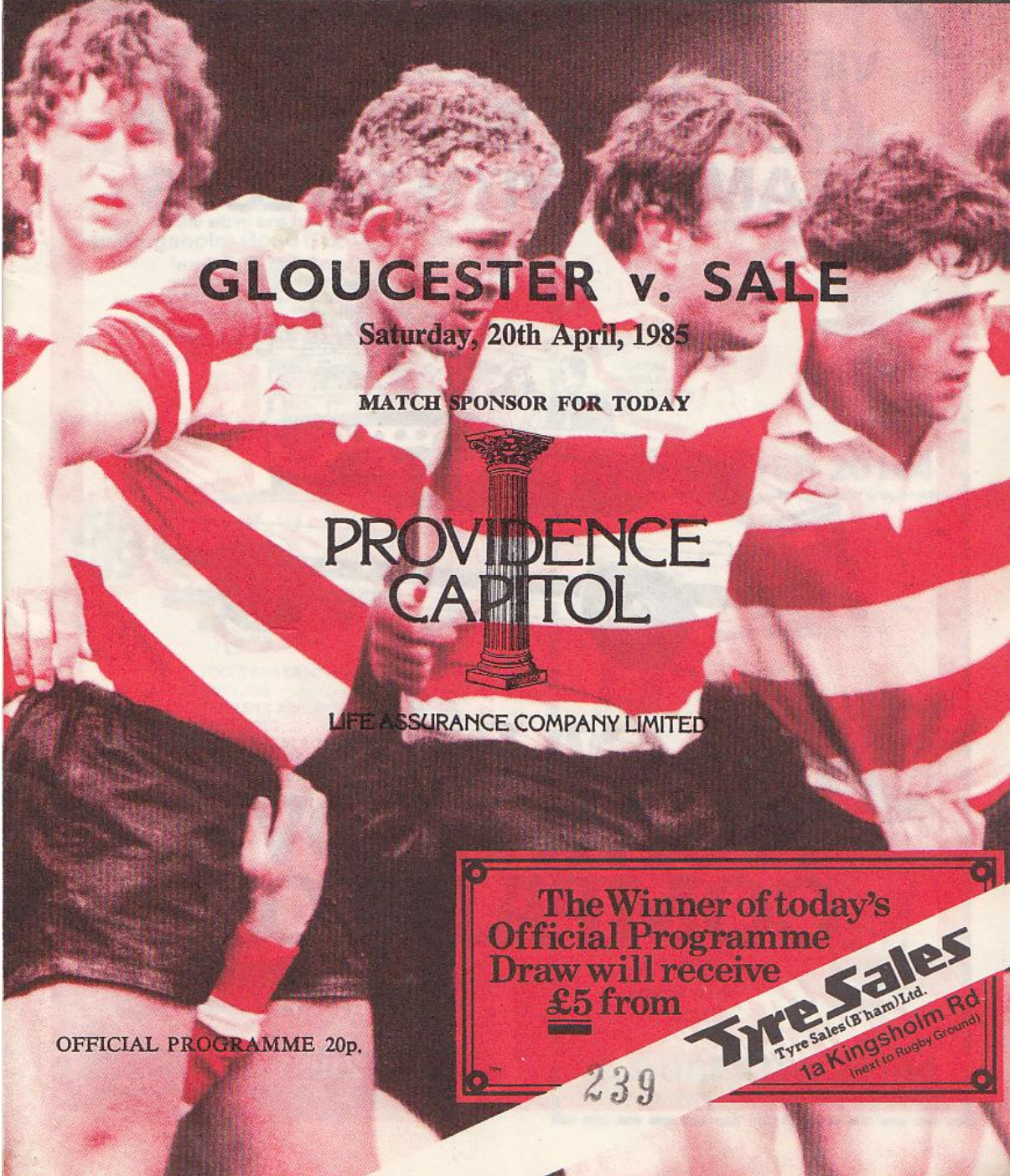


FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

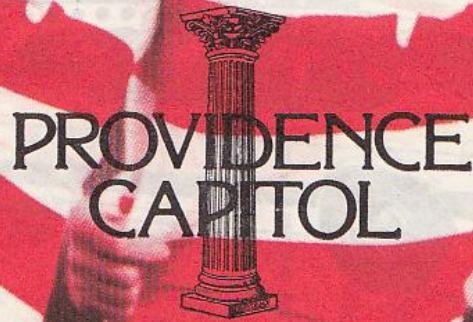
PRESIDENT: CANON H. M. HUGHES, B.A.



GLOUCESTER v. SALE

Saturday, 20th April, 1985

MATCH SPONSOR FOR TODAY



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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 (Capt.)
11.	N. Price
Half Backs	
10.	M. Hamlin
9.	M. Hannaford
Forwards	
†	1. M. Preedy
†	2. S. Mills
	3. R. Pascall
	4. D. Burn
	5. J. Brain
	6. J. Gadd
	7. I. Smith
	8. J. Bennett

REPLACEMENTS

K. White
P. Kingston †

SALE

Full Back	
15.	G. Jenion
Three Quarters	
14.	H. Thomas
13.	P. Stansfield
†	12. A. Bond (Capt.)
11.	J. Dyson
Half Backs	
10.	A. Egan
†	9. S. Smith
Forwards	
1.	M. Higgs
2.	J. McFarland
3.	M. Callery
4.	I. McKie
5.	I. Bullough
6.	S. Tipping
7.	N. Gaffney
8.	R. Stevenson

REPLACEMENTS

D. Carlile
P. Sherratt

Referee: **R. QUITTENTON** (London Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



Icing on the cake

The John Player Cup run is over, the Easter games have come and gone, and we have now reached the last home First XV match of the season. So it's icing on the cake for us to entertain Sale, who have had their third highly successful season in a row, and are current leaders of the new National Merit Table, as our final visitors until September.

Of course, this is the game which we hoped could have been played last night, and with the counter-attraction of a minor fracas just down the M4, we would like to thank all the supporters who have preferred watching Sale to Wales, while at the same time, welcoming the lads from Heywood Road.

Last season, Sale scored 1,058 points, and we didn't have the opportunity of measuring our emerging side against them, so it's good to see how things work out. Last week, they beat Pontypool at Sale, but Gloucester put up a very creditable performance against Neath, who have beaten 'Pooler' this season too, so things look evenly balanced.

Nice to see you, Sale! Hope you have a great time.

Phil Blakeway

It really looks as if 'Blakers' has reached the end of the road this time. As Steve Mills said under similar circumstances, he's only got one neck, and the last thing any of us would want is for it to be third time unlucky for Philip.

Phil Blakeway's neck, John Fidler's ankles — it's as well to remember that there's a price to pay for the countless hours of entertainment which such outstanding players give us. There are more things in life than Rugby, although it's sometimes difficult to realise that at Kingsholm.

Although we have never been short of prominent prop forwards, we probably shan't see the like of Phil Blakeway again. One can think of props who can match him in some respects — Mike Burton and George Hastings come to mind — but I doubt if anyone has ever been his master for technique and sheer physical strength.

I'm told that Phil isn't interested in coaching, but I'd like to think that a niche can be found at Kingsholm for him somewhere. His experience would be invaluable, and his mere presence a great encouragement to the batch of young players we have coming along.

Hail and farewell Phil — we shall all miss you.

When one door closes . . .

. . . another opens, they say, and there's some sort of a moral in the fact that Marcus Hannaford's elevation to the replacement benches for the England 'B' match was announced hard on the heels of the news of the retirement of Phil Blakeway. It's only a small initial step, but fitting acknowledgement of a young player who has had an outstanding 'debut' season.

Thanks to Providence Capital

Our final Sponsor of the season is Providence Capital — certainly one of Britain's leading unit-linked life assurance organisations. They have been in Cheltenham for some 2½ years now, and have made a big impact.

If you are in the market for some investment, you might like to know that a very recent 'Daily Telegraph' article established Providence Capital's Property Fund as the most successful in the country over the past five years. Furthermore, they have just launched their own range of unit trusts.

Jim Ryan, the Cheltenham Manager, is an old friend, and it's interesting to note that his company is only in our neck of the woods because Jim had the acumen to see the possibilities of the area, and talked the powers that be into setting up a branch here. Which says something about his own nous and persistence.

Thanks Jim, and everyone at Providence Capital. We hope your undoubted success is furthered by today's exercise, and continues for decades to come.

. . . and to all the rest

As usual, the last home game of the season sees the presence of all our valued sponsors, joining the Club in a celebratory snifter.

We're heartily pleased to welcome them all, and thank them again for the great contribution which, collectively and individually, they make to Gloucester RFC. Thanks again chaps — come again next year.

Cyril Harris

Last Monday, our distinguished, Canon Mervyn Hughes, had the melancholy duty of taking the funeral of an old Gloucester RFC colleague, Cyril Harris, who was propping for the Club from 1931 to 1939. He was one of the long line of formidable Gloucester props which continues to this day, sharing the front row with 'Bumps' Carpenter and Tom Price.

His career was cut short, after appearances with the County, by a horrendous broken leg, sustained against Leicester, as Mervyn Hughes, who was playing at the time remembers vividly.

"It really was a bad break" says Canon Hughes, "And I shall never forget the sound."

"But Cyril was an outstanding prop — solid as a rock." And if Mervyn Hughes says that, none of us will disbelieve him.

Our sincere sympathy to his family.

Keeping us going

As always, this is an appropriate occasion to express our gratitude to the army of people who help, in so many ways, to make Gloucester RFC what it is. If I single out Graham Spring for his announcements over the almost-rehabilitated PA system, it's only because Terry Tandy asked me to, on the grounds that we haven't had the opportunity of thanking him before.

But there are so many people. The chaps who look after the pitch, the ladies who provide food and wash the kit. The lads who sell programmes and retrieve balls. The happy souls who man turnstiles and carparks. The Committee people — even the Selectors — bar staff, 300 Club organisers, and so many other people, some of whom I'm certain not to have remembered.

To everyone, our heartiest of thanks. The Kingsholm scene is something special, and they do a great deal to keep it that way.

Dig deep!

Today sees the annual St. John Ambulance Brigade collection, in and around the ground. There's no need for me to stress the superb job they do, week in and week out, looking after the shocks that Rugby players are heir to, and I do ask you to make a generous contribution.

After all, without them, we'd have to put up with Kevin White's rattling cap every week!

One more hurdle

Next Saturday, the last game of the season, is the vital visit to Exeter. We need a win there to feature in next year's John Player, albeit, by the tradesmen's entrance. Whether we can better Bristol's 70-point win is a moot point. Personally I would be happy with a single-point victory.

This is one occasion where the lads can do with all the support they can get. I don't know if any seats are still available on the Social Club coaches, but it's worth asking.

If you can't make the journey to Dem-shire, me old dear, you could still give your support at second hand by coming along to the United match against the Exeter second string. They deserve support too.

Tailpiece

I was fascinated to read, in last week's Neath programme, that Gloucester RFC have recently had an International player 'John Tiddler'. I'm sure that all 18 stone and 6' 5" of Big John Fidler will be equally intrigued.

On which happy note, I must say 'Cheers!' for another season — and by no means the least interesting one.

See you next September. Have a good cricket season!

PETER ARNOLD.

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