



GLOUCESTER V. PONTYPOOL

WEDNESDAY
9th OCTOBER, 1985

Kick-off 7 p.m.

Sponsored by
**Pritchett, Cook
& Hickman**



FOUNDED 1873

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive
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Sponsored by

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GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back
15. S. Lazenby

Three Quarters
14. R. Mogg
13. I. Goslin
12. P. Taylor
11. J. Breeze

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. D. Spencer
8. J. Bennett

REPLACEMENTS

S. Artus
R. Burn

PONTYPOOL

Full Back
15. P. Lewis

Three Quarters
14. G. Davies
13. R. Bidgood
12. S. Lancen
11. B. Taylor

Half Backs
10. M. Goldsworthy
† 9. D. Bishop

Forwards
† 1. S. Jones
2. S. Jones
† 3. G. Price
† 4. J. Perkins (Capt.)
5. K. Moseley
6. C. Huish
† 7. M. Brown
8. M. Davies

REPLACEMENTS

A. Parry, A. Carter,
P. Newberry

Referee: R. QUITTENTON (London Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

The saga continues . . .

The next episode of the long-running serial story concerning the ups and downs of Gloucester v. Pontypool arrives tonight. Not that I'd call it a 'soap opera' because events usually have more in common with pumice than with fabulous pink Camay, but it makes enthralling entertainment for all that.

Of recent years, successive Gloucester sides don't have much to preen themselves about when results between our two great clubs have met. Two years ago, at Kingsholm, 'Pooler' did an efficient demolition job and went home with a 23-12 win. Last year, Gloucester came home having conceded 19 points with a solitary penalty to show in return. Nevertheless, the annual feast does give us the best yardstick we're ever likely to have when judging the likely merits of the Gloucester pack as the season goes on, and with Merit Table and John Player games to come, that will be especially useful this year.

One can't help but think of Pontypool v. Gloucester as a trial of strength between the best two club packs in our respective countries — and, no, I haven't forgotten either Cardiff or Bath in making that statement. However, there's more to the game than confrontation between the grunt-and-groan boys. Scrum halves have always proved to be important, as, for that matter, have full backs and place kickers. It's unlikely to be a game to bring your gently-reared maiden aunt to, but there's always a lot to watch if you reckon to know as much about Rugby Football as we do at Kingsholm.

The Pontypool fixture is an essential ingredient in Gloucester's season, so tonight's visitors are extremely welcome. Are 'Pooler' to become the third Welsh side to bite the dust at Kingsholm? Or are they going to do a Newbridge on us?

Watch tonight's thrilling episode.

Thanks to Pritchett, Cook and Hickman

Only once have I had the dubious pleasure of appearing in a witness box, and an essential part of that experience was cross examination by Stan Pritchett. This had certain resemblances to trying to do a blind-side run past Johnny Gadd on a wet Wednesday night, but it did give me a lively appreciation of the skills required to run a successful general solicitors practice.

I don't think that those skills necessarily include a willingness to sponsor the Gloucester v. Pontypool game, but the fact that Pritchett, Cook and Hickman are doing just that this evening, says a great deal about the firm, and about their involvement in the local community.

Solicitors, these days, are a far cry from those portrayed by Charles Dickens, or for that matter, from the image perpetuated by various television programmes. Not only do you have to know your Law (which I'm told is even more complicated than this season's front row rules), but you have to know about people, about the general scene, about which parts of the City are likely to be torn down and rebuilt, and about a host of other things.

Everyone needs a solicitor at some time. Often, when you need one, you aren't in a position to hang about. It isn't a bad idea, therefore, to have a fair idea about who you'll go to before the need arises, and you don't really want to be in a position where you pick someone out with a pin from a handy telephone directory.

So tonight's exercise by Stan Pritchett and his partners is very useful, for more than the usual reasons. As a good rugby man yourself, you'll know a good deal about Pritchett, Cook and Hickman before you ever get in touch with them, which can do wonders for your self-confidence should you be considering buying a new house, making a Will, or taking some much more complex action.

Be that as it may, we're all very grateful to tonight's sponsors, and hope that everyone they bring along has a magnificent evening.

After all, Justice must be seen to be done . . .

Not long 'til the 28th

The last time I saw Jim Jarrett he was clutching a wad of cheques, just received, and all demanding tickets for the Grand Stag Dinner to be held on October 28th in aid of the Florida Tour Fund. So if you're contemplating investing a modest £17.50 in the chance to hear speeches by Messrs. Beaumont, Burton and Blakeway at Pineholt that night, then perhaps you ought to transform intentions into deeds without too much delay.

It occurs to me, also, that that will be the evening when the draw for the following round of the John Player has been announced, so assuming that Lewes won't prove an insurmountable obstacle, it would be nice to discuss prospects with like-minded people.

I'm also told that the £250 commercial Tour Sponsorship scheme is going well, so if you're thinking of taking part, then you'll be in good company.

Tour Disco

If your tastes run more to T-shirts than tuxedos, then you can indulge them too. The Players will be running one of their now-famous discos on Saturday, October 19th, in the Complex. In aid of the Tour Fund, of course, just as last season's extravaganzas were.

That's the night of the Newport game, so it could put the seal on a good day. Jeremy Bennett is the chap to see, but I expect any Player could point you in the right direction.

It will be, of course, the first such event of the season, and I doubt very much whether it will be the last. Why not get into a good habit early? Tickets are only £1.50.

Lewes on the right lines

It doesn't matter where Gloucester RFC venture to, our old friends from British Rail never let us down — not even when the safari involves exploring the trackless wastes of Sussex. Or, to be more precise, Lewes.

I hear that the intention is to run a train for the John Player game on October 26th at a cost of £9.00. BR do ask that anyone who wants to take advantage — and it's going to be about the easiest way to get there — should enquire at the BR Travel Centre quickly, because if the requisite 350 or so passengers aren't forthcoming, they will, regretfully, have to cancel the venture.

And still they come

Welsh teams seem to be a bit like buses. You wait ages for one to come along, then you get four, nose to tail.

The next example of the species arrives one week tonight, in the formidable shape of Ebbw Vale, which will be interesting for everyone, but perhaps especially for Ian Goslin. They are followed rapidly by Newport, who pay us a visit on Saturday, October 16th.

If you feel that too many Welsh sides in a row is like living on a diet of steak, then you would be well advised to sample the local delicacy on Monday, October 14th, when United have a home game against Berry Hill. That game should be an excellent warm-up for the Foresters before they play their tricky John Player visit to Loughborough Colleges, and you'll be able to make up your own mind about their chances.

Don't forget the Lads

Reg Collins is enthusing about the quality of our Colts squad, these days, and he isn't a chap who throws compliments around like confetti.

The lads have a tough one coming up though. On Tuesday, October 15th — next Tuesday in fact — they entertain their Opposite Numbers from Bath, who on last year's evidence, are certainly no one's cannon fodder.

This is definitely the strongest home fixture the Co'ts have until the arrival of Moseley, well into next year, and I recommend you to grace it with your presence. Should be a cracking game.

300 Club

I haven't seen Brian Howells to talk to lately, but he hasn't told me to stop mentioning the 300 Club, so I assume that he could do with a few more members. See him in the Clubhouse.

Nick's Emporium is going well

I hear that the new Club Shop, run by the sadly sidelined Nick Price, is going from strength to strength, with a very good range of goodies on sale. It opens for business for about an hour before the match, during half-time, and for about half-an-hour afterwards, so why not trot along and see for yourself? Old Secretary's Office, under the clock.

Tailpiece

You'll notice that our crop of Gloucester City Councilors will be in their usual places next Wednesday, the full Council Meeting having been put back until the following day because of the visit of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

That's their story, anyway.

PETER ARNOLD