Sponsored by

GLOUCESTER
(Cherry & White)

Full Back
15. T. Smith

Three Quarters
14. D. Morgan
13. R. Mogg
12. P. Taylor
11. J. Breeze

Half Backs
10. M. Hamlin
9. S. Artus

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. Lazenby
D. Burn

NEWPORT

Full Back
15. J. Callard

Three Quarters
14. S. Pill
13. P. Daniel
12. D. Pitt
11. S. McWilliams

Half Backs
10. K. James
9. T. Coombs

Forwards
† 1. J. Rawlins
† 2. M. Watkins
† 3. R. Mogan
† 4. J. Widdecombe
5. A. Perry
6. G. George
7. W. Rendall
8. R. Powell

REPLACEMENTS
C. Jonathan
R. Collins

Referee: C. J. HIGH (Manchester Society)
† International

Good luck to one special team from another!

Richard Cound
BMW in Gloucestershire
Our Turn This Year?

The structure of fixtures lists being what it is, these days, there are comparatively few sides who play each other on a home-and-away basis each season. So when one of these comes along, you can be sure that it’s a fixture which has something special about it.

The annual tribal feast known as the ‘Newport game’ can certainly be described in those terms. For once, I can state with some confidence that no one here today remembers when fixtures between our two clubs commenced, because we have been playing Newport since before we moved to Kingsholm, and that was in the 1980s.

Not that historic connections grant us any favours as far as the Black-and-Whites are concerned. In fact, in terms of playing results, today’s visitors have proved downright obstructive over the past couple of seasons. Two years ago, we lost at Kingsholm by 7 points to 3 while the Rodney Parade game was a victim of uncooperative weather. Last season, with the fixtures reversed, Newport won 27-12, and held us to a 6-6 draw here at home. And that was the week after we put 38 points on Coventry.

It would be nice to think that it’s about our turn for a win, but the Law of Averages never did apply, out there on the field, and if Gloucester do come out on top today, it won’t be because they rely on mathematics.

One thing’s for sure. It’ll be a ‘big boys’ game on the sacred turf today, and might even be one for the connoisseur.

It’s always good to see old friends, and there are quite a few in the Newport side. As always, today’s visitors are extremely welcome, and we hope they have a highly enjoyable visit.

And we’ll see them again, on their own Patch, in December.

It’s For You-Hoo!

It’s usual, of course, for our valued Sponsors to invite customers along for the occasion. If Martin Mahoney performed that service, for even a significant proportion of his, then we’d probably have to play at Wembley Stadium, because he has 270,000 of them.

Martin is the comparatively new Manager of the Gloucester and Swindon Customer Service Area of British Telecom. No doubt, as a new broom in a new system, he has done his share of sweeping clean, to coin a cliche, but BT’s Roger Leadley tells me that sponsorship of Kingsholm matches was probably safe, because Martin moved here from Penarth, and didn’t need much persuading of the value of the exercise.

Which is indicative of Telecom’s attitudes these days. Even if they are a very large national organisation, the policy is to keep roots firmly in the communities which they serve. Roger, who for a PR man, has a nice gift for understatement, says that in assessing priorities in that respect, Kingsholm must come ‘fairly high’ on the list.

You’d have to be blind and deaf not to realise that BT is developing very rapidly, what with innovations like Telecom Shops in Debenhams and the introduction of new electronic mail systems. Indeed, they can claim to be, probably, the most technologically advanced organisation of their type in the world, so it’s nice to be able to record that they believe in looking after the customers who put themselves in that pre-eminent position. Matches sponsored at Kingsholm are one of the outward and visible signs of that, and we’re profoundly grateful therefore.

Mind you — they can’t half pick ‘em. Not only are they supporting us for the Newport game, but they are performing the same service for the visit of Bristol, in the New Year!

Rolling Down to Lewes

You’ll have picked up the fact by now about the most convenient way to get to Lewes for next week’s John Player game, is to travel by British Rail. The cost is £9.00, which isn’t at all bad.

The train will leave at 8.37 and arrive at 11.47, which gives time for a noggin beforehand, and then leaves at 6.30, giving time for another one, arriving in Gloucester at 9.30, so that you can have time for a final libation in the Clubhouse.

We are very happy to report, that British Rail are providing the Gloucester players with complimentary travel on that day, which is extremely generous of them, and probably means any fatigue the long journey might induce.

There’s another innovation too. If you decide to travel that way, you’ll find that a member of British Rail staff will be in the Secretary’s office, before and after today’s game, ready, able and extremely willing to sell you your rail tickets for the game. May I suggest you take advantage of that? It will save you a trip during the week.

And, don’t forget, if they don’t get at least 200 passengers, the train won’t run, so it won’t be any use making up your mind to go at the last minute.
Advance Warning
Here's a date for the diaries of Patrons, David Fryle tells me that this year's Patrons Night will be held on December 14th. Long way ahead, I know, but things do get a bit hectic at that time of the year, so it's as well to make a note now.

More details when I have them, David will let me know, well in advance, when tickets are available.

Are You Kitted Out?
If you are going on safari to Sussex, next week, are you sure you'll be properly dressed for the occasion? After all, we wouldn't want the Lewes lads to be in any doubt as to whose side you're on.

If you feel you are in need of a new sweater, tie, athletic supporter, or whatever, may I remind you that our new Club Shop is in operation, in the old Office, and that the sadly sidelined Nick Price is positively salivating to sell you something?

Come Back Graham Spring ...
... all (or most is forgiven, Terry Tandy is swearing by the Sacred Jockstrap of Mike Burton that, following herculean efforts by our army of technological geniuses, our new PA system will be in full working operation by the Rosslyn Park match on November 2nd.

It will be nice to hear Graham's carefully modulated tones again.

The Return of the Rites of Spring also means, of course, that the popular Lucky Programme Numbers will also be back, and the idea is that no less than TWO Fantastic Fivers will be awarded for each game, until the slack created by the lack of a PA system has been taken up.

By my arithmetic, that means that two prizes will be awarded at every home game from Rosslyn Park until Bristol on January 31st. Unless, of course, we're drawn at home in the JPC.

'Why Not Give The United A Go?'
We have something of a breather, over the next couple of weeks, as far as home First XV matches are concerned, the trip to Lewes taking place next Saturday.

It should be pointed out, however, that if you are craving for your Wednesday night fix, Abberlaffy isn't that far away on October 30th.

However, the United are always good value, and you could well come and see them take on Luctonians on Monday next.

The very next night, Tuesday 22nd, as ever was, there's another chance to see our sparkling Colts side, who entertain Nuncaen at that evening. Colts games are always worth a visit, and I'm told, even more so this year. And they would value your support.

Last Time of Asking
This is the last chance I shall have to recommend you to invest a modest £17.50 in attending the Rugby Event of the Year.

The event in question is, of course, the Grand Stag Dinner, being held in aid of the Florida Tour Fund, featuring stars of TV and shower rooms, Bill Beaumont, Mike Burton and Philip Blakeway.

If you see Jim Jarrett today, he will probably be able to fit you in somewhere, but I wouldn't guarantee that that will be the case if you leave it much longer.

Rave-Up Tonite!
'Pardon the spelling, but it seemed appropriate. The Players are running one of their now-famous discos, in the Complex this evening. Highly recommended if you're a swinger, a would-be swinger, a once-was swinger, or a like-to-be-a-swinger-if-had-half-a-chance.

Tickets are £1.50, available from Gentleman Jeremy Bennett, or any Player you can get to stand still long enough.

Don't Forget the 300 Club
Bryan Howells will still be happy to accept your money for the 300 Club. And with Christmas shopping looming depressingly near, it would give you a sporting chance to defray expenses.

Tailpiece
Best bon mot of the season, so far, came from the anonymous wit who shouted "Come on 633 Squadron" as Messrs. Owain, Goslin and Lazenby stormed down the field together at one point during the Llanelli match. Wish I'd thought of that.

PETER ARNOLD.