

GLOUCESTER

V.

BATH

SATURDAY

9th NOVEMBER, 1985

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by

**National Westminster
Bank PLC**

**JOHN SMITH'S
MERIT TABLES**



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GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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CANON H. M. HUGHES B.A.

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The Winner of today's
Official Programme
Draw will receive
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1654

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Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
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GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

	Full Back	
	15. T. Smith	
	Three Quarters	
	14. D. Morgan	
	13. P. Taylor	
	12. R. McLean	
	11. J. Breeze	
	Half Backs	
	10. M. Hamlin	
	9. M. Hannaford	
	Forwards	
†	1. M. Preedy	
	2. K. White	
	3. R. Pascall	
†	4. J. Orwin (Capt.)	
	5. J. Brain	
	6. J. Gadd	
	7. M. Longstaff	
	8. J. Bennett	

REPLACEMENTS

S. Artus
G. Mann

BATH

	Full Back	
†	16. C. Martin	
	Three Quarters	
†	15. D. Trick	
†	14. J. A. Palmer (Capt.)	
†	12. S. Halliday	
†	11. A. Swift	
	Half Backs	
†	10. S. Barnes	
†	9. R. Hill	
	Forwards	
†	1. G. Chilcott	
	2. M. Roberts	
	3. M. R. Lee	
	4. J. Morrison	
†	5. N. C. Redman	
	6. R. Spurrell	
†	7. J. Hall	
	8. D. Egerton	

REPLACEMENTS

J. Guscott
D. M. Sole

Referee: J. A. F. TRIGG (London Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Comment Superfluous

I almost feel that, apart from the obvious words of welcome to our old friends from Bath, anything I may say today has been said 'ad infinitum' before. After all, recent events between our two pillars of West Country Rugby have now passed into Kingsholm mythology.

Almost — but not quite. After all, the last time that our distinguished guests ventured on to the Sacred Turf, the two sides produced a match which was not only delightful to behold, and gratifying to recollect, but they produced an occasion which was one of the best justifications for Rugby Union Football which most of us have ever seen.

The commitment was total, the skills remarkable. Yet the atmosphere, on the field and off, was Corinthian and in the best traditions of amateur sport.

Of course, things are different, in some respects, today. Some faces have changed, through injury and switches of allegiance. Not so much is riding on the game, although the John Smith's Merit Table considerations are not to be sneezed at.

Bath come here as the best side in England this season. On the other hand, Rosslyn Park had quite a reputation too.

Two weeks ago, no one would have given Gloucester much of a chance. Now? Well, I dunno. It really is one of those games where anything could happen.

'Nuff said. But I hope the Bath contingent know that they are as welcome as a quart of Toby in the Sahara. It's great to see them again.

Second Time of Asking

The memories of that John Player Semi Final are so insistent that we tend to forget that the 'regular' visit of Bath didn't take place last year, due to the waterlogged state of the pitch. One group of welcome visitors, today, don't forget it though — and that's the representatives and guests of our generous sponsors, National Westminster Bank, who were looking forward to providing the same invaluable support that day, and didn't get the chance to do so.

It's difficult to think of a more appropriate game for National Westminster to sponsor. Their Area Office is based in Bath, and we have branches in Gloucester in both Eastgate and Westgate Streets, at Hucclecote, and — most usefully — in the Royal Hospital: right opposite the Patients' Library, if you ever have need of their services.

Of course, National Westminster have a firm policy of supporting sport and other community interests. Their involvement in Cricket, for example, is very well known.

Personally, being a long-standing NatWest customer, I find that one of their most useful services is the ability to use one's Service card to obtain cash at any time, both at their own branches, and also in branches of the Midland Bank. Very handy at the end of a long weekend when such machines have been known to run out of cash.

We're especially glad to welcome Ken Broadhead, who is the Bank's Area Director, and therefore a very senior executive to have along. Naturally, Managers of various local branches from the Gloucester and Cheltenham areas are here too.

Thanks, everyone for your generous support. Hope you have a good day.

Andy Hits the Road

Andy Mitchell rang me, the other day, to tell me that he is running his now-traditional coach to the Leicester match on December 7th. It will leave Kingsholm at about 10.30 and follow the usual pattern — break for refreshment, more refreshment before the game, more refreshment after the game, more refreshment on the way home, with the opportunity for nosh.

The only thing Andy couldn't tell me was the price. He'll probably know that by now, so it might be just as well to see him today, if you're tempted, and before you are in danger of riding on the roof rack.

Christmas is Coming . . .

. . . and the list of prizes in the Annual Christmas Draw is getting fat. Please to put a few pennies in John Beaman's hat. There's no better way of winning a useful addition to your seasonal fare than buying a few tickets any time you're around. And, horrible to relate, there are only three more home First XV games between now and Christmas!

Saint Nicholas?

Talking of Christmas, we do have our own 'Saint Nicholas', although whether Nick Price has actually been officially canonised yet is open to question.

Why not trot along to the Club Shop and see if he's wearing his halo today? While you're there, you could take the opportunity to purchase a few Rugby-related Christmas goodies, selected from the veritable cornucopia he has on view.

In case you hadn't caught up with the fact, Santa Nick's Grotto is situated in the old Secretary's office, under the clock on the Edwy Parade side.

Two Fivers Again Today

You can't please everybody. On hearing music emanating from our new public address system, the other day, one veteran of Kingsholm campaigns past commented "Don't seem the same without the Cinderford Band marching up and down!".

Be that as it may, we're still taking up the slack caused by the deathly silence from the PA at the start of the Season, so there will again be TWO crisp fivers to be won by purchasers of the appropriately numbered Lucky Programmes.

And our thanks, yet again, to Tyre Sales Limited for their continued imaginative support.

Bring on Cheltenham!

Having faced Rosslyn Park, South Wales Police and Bath in rapid succession, we are now about ready for a good old local Derby, as represented by Cheltenham. That annual tribal feast is to take place next Wednesday. And you may not have caught up with the fact that Cheltenham are now members of the South West Merit Table.

On Saturday, 16th November, the United have Newport High School Old Boys here, which is always a tough one.

And don't forget another attractive game — London Irish on November 23rd.

Attention Bath Supporters

Gloucester fans all know by now, of course, but the advent of Bath prompts me to remind their welcome supporters that we have the South West v. Midlands Divisional match here on December 14th. There aren't any tickets, so everyone starts even. It's also worth pointing out that the kick-off is at the unconscionably early time of 2.15.

'Sorry' Spot

My apologies for a 'boob' a week or two ago, when, acting on information received, I gave you the wrong date for the Patrons' Evening. The real date is Thursday, December 12th. Shouldn't be long before tickets are available, and I'll let you know when they are.

Funny — David Foyle did look sober when he gave me the information . . .

Gap in the Fixture List

You may have noticed that there is an aching void alongside the date 'November 30th' in the fixture list.

This has been filled by an away watch at Camborne, which can't be bad for Merit Table reasons.

Terry Tandy tells me that it had been hoped that the game would be played at Kingsholm, and that Peter Ford used all his powers of persuasion to arrange it that way. Camborne, however, felt they couldn't so we're trekking to 'Oggyland' that day.

Sorry about that!

Tailpiece

We don't have a reputation for saying nice things about Terry O'Connor of the 'Daily Mail', but I'm sure we'd all endorse some comments he made last Tuesday.

He complained that 'Rugby Special' has been trimmed to 30 minutes and that the coverage of matches is a bit eccentric — as evidenced by the fact that Pontypool's first home defeat rated only a minute of air time.

At least the programme has now come to rest at 2.00 p.m. on Sundays although some good lunchtime drinkers of my acquaintance aren't happy with that, either.

As a crowd who, last season, had to wait until well after midnight to watch the epic Gloucester/Bath Semi Final, perhaps all we should say is — more power to Mr. O'Connor's elbow.

PETER ARNOLD.