GLOUCESTER V. LYDNEY
THURSDAY
26th DECEMBER, 1985
Kick-off 3 p.m.
Sponsored by
DARYLL B. COX & ASSOCIATES

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
Kingsholm

FOUNDED 1873

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

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

The Winner of today's Official Programme Draw will receive £1 from Tyre Sales Tyre Sales Limited

13 Kingsholm Rd Gloucester Gl2 4YD

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<th>Gloucester</th>
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<td>(Cherry &amp; White)</td>
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<td>13. R. McLean</td>
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<td>11. J. Breeze</td>
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<td>† 1. M. Preedy</td>
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<td>3. R. Pascal</td>
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<td>† 4. J. Orwin (Capt.)</td>
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<td>G. Mann</td>
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Referee: D. Matthews (Liverpool Society)

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!

Richard Cound
BMW in Gloucestershire
Tis The Season . . .

. . . to welcome our old friends from Lydney — a Seasonal celebration which has become as traditional as mistletoe, mince pies or getting smashed at the office party. Mind you, it’s all right for we pleasure-bent spectators, but the sight of the Lydney pack bearing down on you at a rate of knots can’t be everyone’s idea of Peace and Goodwill to All Men. Ah well! It’s more blessed to give than to receive, it says here.

Be that as it may, Christmas is the time when one expects to welcome the neighbours in for a celebratory noggin, and no doubt, any festive contusions sustained in the course of furthering East/West (of Severn) relations will be adequately soothed by liberal applications of Tracey’s Elixir in the Bar afterwards.

You probably won’t need reminding that results between today’s two participants have, over the years, given the lie to the popularly-supposed relative standings of the clubs concerned. You can use whatever yardstick you like, including merit tables and Divisional Selections, but it’s what happens out there on the turf which goes into the record books, and very few would argue that roundly-coloured eyes can deny that Gloucester haven’t had it all their own way for quite a while now. Last Boxing Day, for example, Gloucester won, hardly enough by a margin of 16 points, but twelve months before that, Lydney went back home rejoicing to the tune of 15 points to 7. Indeed, they did the double over us during this season, winning at Lydney, 12-8.

It’s certainly nice to welcome the ‘Severniders’, as some sections of the Press persist in calling today’s visitors. While it’s a bit late to wish them a Merry Christmas, I’m sure we’ll all want to send our good wishes to them for the 1986 half of the season.

Thanks to Daryll Cox

One chap’s working today, Boxing Day or not — if you count dispensing celebratory libations to assorted friends and colleagues as ‘work’, that is.

On the other hand, perhaps Daryll Cox knows precisely what he is doing. After all, this is a time for looking forward, as well as backwards, and the beginning of a new year is highly appropriate for thinking about pensions, insurances, any impending house moves and similar considerations.

As proprietor of Daryll B. Cox and Associates, Mortgage and Insurance Consultants, it seems a good time for Daryll to bring his services to our attention, and at the same time, give the Club a hand by sponsoring a game at Kingsholm.

Not The Time To Get A Ticket!

We’ve had a friendly word from our friends in the Constabulary. And I do mean ‘friendly’, because the Police don’t really want to spoil people’s holidays by going around spreading parking tickets like party streamers.

I suppose we’re all likely to do it. You get a bit late for the match, can’t find a place to leave the car, and then aren’t too particular about where and how you park it. It’s understandable, but can be extremely annoying to residents in the area.

Police have had the odd complaint from persons who have suffered in this way, and are now asking Kingsholm supporters to be a bit more considerate on occasions. It’s not a huge problem, but one which concerns a good many people. So, if it’s a choice between careless parking and having to walk a bit further, do us a favour and take the latter option, would you? The last thing we want to do is offend either the Police or the neighbours — who, you may consider, should have first call on the space outside their houses.

After all, we do have a perfectly good car park of our own.

While I’m at it, although we never need much of a Police presence at Kingsholm, let’s give seasonal thanks to the blokes who do attend on big match days, not forgetting the ‘Specials’ who tend to control traffic getting into the car park on such occasions.

Thanks chaps!

And don’t forget the drink-drive crackdown will you?

As For The Other Sort Of Ticket . . .

One statistic has come to hand from Terry Tandy, which I hope won’t spoil your festivities too much. It appears that the Club has had a refund cheque from Twickenham amounting to some £8,335, relating to requests for International tickets.

You can see from that figure that such tickets are in short supply, and that a lot of people aren’t going to get what they asked for.

This does give the Club a dilemma, of course. How do you try and make sure that everyone gets a fair crack of the whip?

Terry tells me that the first decision is that no one is going to get tickets for both home Internationals. That way, it makes it easier to make sure that everyone gets one trip to Twickenham this season — and that’s the aim, if at all possible.

It appears that the basic problem is that Ireland, who are, of course, Champions, are now as popular as Wales, and that consequently, tickets are now equally in demand for both games. Which must mean something.
Fancy A Nibble?
You're probably fed up (literally) with Christmas grub by now, and could do with a change. So how about a nice bacon and mushroom bap? Or a tasty curry? Or even a dabble at the old Spaghetti Bolognese?

Nowadays, all these goodies are available right here at Kingsholm — from an hour before the game until custom dries up afterwards — and that includes the period while the match is in progress, and half time.

Pat Morgan is the presiding genius, and as one who had the opportunity to sample her culinary expertise years before she ever started providing noon for ravenous Rugby people, I can recommend you to seek a similar experience.

Pat, operating as 'PM Caterers', works her magic in the small vestible which leads directly from the ground into the Clubhouse — at the main Stand end of said edifice. That way, she can serve straight out onto the Ground, but can also meet the needs of anyone in the Social Club Lounge, which, of course, also means the long bar.

Pat isn't just a caterer. She's been providing food for Old Richians RFC as well as the City Cricket Club for a while now, so isn't any stranger to the needs of people like us. She's also one of the best lady bowlers in the County, so knows what sports people require. Neither is she likely to throw a fit of the vapours if your description of the referee gets a bit colourful.

All in all, I think PM Caterers could be a decided acquisition for Kingsholm, perhaps filling something of a long-dated void. We'll have to see how it goes, but I hope it's a successful venture, for all our sakes.

Why not give it a try?

John Player Tickets

News comes from T. Tandy Esq, that tickets for the vital Cup match with Bristol on January 25th, will start to become available at the Moseley game on New Year's Day. There are complications, however.

To start with, only Stand tickets will be on sale. Bristol, being Bristol, have gleefully accepted the one-third of the Stand space to which they are entitled, and would probably have liked more. Terry's decided, therefore, that tickets will be available only to Stand Season Ticket Holders until the Leicester game on January 11th.

David Foyle, lucky devil, has, or is about to, depart for warmer climes, and so won't be around to administer things. However, if you want to order tickets in advance, at £2.50 for Centre Stand or £2.00 for Wing Stand — in other words, normal Saturday prices — you can do so by writing to David Foyle's efficient secretary at Sandoc Luce Pans in Brunswick Road, or by applying directly to Terry Tandy.

There's sure to be a huge demand for these tickets. After all, a Cup game against the 'old enemy' is likely to be an occasion rivalled only by last season's epic against Bath.

Is this our year, I wonder? After all, we have beaten the Cup Holders.

Quite A January!

Of course, there's far more to January than the Cup, important though that is. Indeed, that's almost a double-header, remembering that we also have Bristol just six days later on January 31st.

We do start off with a bang, with Moseley here on New Year's Day. After a dubious start, they are now certainly one of the leading clubs in England and will be well worth watching.

The following Saturday, Jan. 4th, the First XV are away to London Scottish, but you would be amply compensated by coming along to see their understudies in the United take on their opposite numbers from Wasps.

January 11th, we have Leicester, no doubt thirsting for vengeance, followed one week later by the feared Wasps side. Then we're up to the John Player.

Without looking it up, I can't imagine that anyone has a tougher start to 1986 than that.

Tailpiece

The way the fixtures have worked out this season, I haven't had a chance to send my usual array of good wishes to everyone in sight. However, it hardly seems worthwhile now, so I hope you'll take them all as read, and I shall be perfectly willing to accept beer on New Year's Day.

I can't resist on stinging the tail though. Terry O'Connor, writing a report of the South West v. Midlands minuet the other Saturday, commented: "The Midlands forwards were always tight."

That's it! I knew they must have had some advantage over our lads.

Have a good rest-of-holiday.

PETER ARNOLD.