

# GLOUCESTER V. LEICESTER

SATURDAY  
11th JANUARY, 1986

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Sponsored by

**SparPlas**



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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MATCH SPONSOR  
FOR TODAY



GLOUCESTER 15 (Cherry & White)	LEICESTER 10
Full Back 15. T. Smith PG	Full Back † O. W. H. Hare. C
Three Quarters 14. D. Morgan 2T 13. R. McLean 12. P. Taylor 11. J. Breeze T	Three Quarters N. D. Evans T † M. P. Dodge L. S. Burnhill K. K. Williams
Half Backs 10. M. Hamlin 9. M. Hannaford	Half Backs † J. L. Casworth T † I. N. Youngs
Forwards † 1. M. Preedy 2. K. White 3. R. Pasall † 4. J. Orwin (Capt.) 5. J. Brain 6. J. Gadd 7. M. Longstaff 8. J. Bennett	Forwards † A. S. Redfern B. C. Tressler C. W. Richardson D. J. Davidson E. M. Foulkes-Arnold F. J. Wells G. D. Richards H. R. Tebbutt
REPLACEMENTS M. Smith L. Cummins	REPLACEMENTS K. McDonald A. Collington

Referee: G. SEDDON (Manchester Society)  
† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



**Richard Cound**  
BMW in Gloucestershire

## COOMBS & RIDGEON

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### USED CAR SPECIALISTS

#### FIRST XV FIXTURES

1985	21 Coventry ... A	13-17
Sept. 3 Exeter ... A	36-16	26 Lydney ... H
7 Swansea ... A	3-44	28 Newport ... A
11 Stroud ... H	28-6	1986
14 Coventry ... H	14-18	Jan. 1 *Moseley ... H
18 Glamorgan Wanderers A	6-13	4 *London Scottish ... A
21 Pontypridd ... H	53-0	11 Leicester ... H
25 Newbridge ... H	10-12	18 *Wasps ... H
28 Exeter Univ. (JPC) H	87-3	25 Waterloo ... A
Oct. 2 Llanelli ... H	27-12	31 *Bristol ... H
5 Bedford ... A	34-6	Feb. 8 Aberavon ... A
9 Pontypool ... H	12-17	14 *Nottingham ... H
12 *Harlequins ... A	6-43	22 Liverpool ... H
16 Ebbw Vale ... H	19-22	28 Northampton ... A
19 Newport ... H	10-12	Mar. 8 Richmond ... H
26 Lewes (JP) ... A	24-10	12 Bridgend ... A
30 Aberillery ... A	13-0	15 Orrell ... A
Nov. 2 Roslyn Park ... H	25-6	19 Cheltenham ... A
6 South Wales Police H	15-14	27 Lydney ... A
9 *Bath ... H	15-11	29 *Headingley ... H
13 Cheltenham ... H	18-0	31 Birkenhead Park H
16 Broughton Park ... A	18-7	Apr. 5 Moseley ... A
20 Exeter University H	Can'd	12 Neath ... H
23 London Irish ... H	44-3	19 *Sale ... A
30 Camborne ... A	25-12	26 Exeter ... H
Dec. 7 *Leicester ... A	15-9	May 3 Bath ... A
14 Llaneston ... A	24-12	* John Smith's Merit Table Fixtures

#### UNITED XV FIXTURES

Sept. 7 Swansea ...	Home	Jan. 4 Wasps ...	Home
14 Coventry ...	Away	11 Leicester ...	Away
17 Cheltenham ...	Away	18 Cleve ...	Away
21 Pontypool ...	Away	25 Newport H.S.O.B. ...	Away
28 Bristol ...	Home	Feb. 1 Bristol ...	Away
30 Glamorgan Wanderers	Home	8 Bath ...	Home
Oct. 5 Bedford ...	Home	15 Moseley ...	Away
12 Richmond ...	Home	22 Roslyn Park ...	Away
14 Berry Hill ...	Home	24 Glamorgan Wanderers	Home
19 Newport ...	Away	Mar. 1 Northampton ...	Away
21 Llaneston ...	Home	4 Cheltenham ...	Home
26 Plymouth ...	Home	8 Nottingham ...	Away
Nov. 2 Cooden ...	Away	15 Orrell ...	Home
16 Newport H.S.O.B. ...	Home	22 Pontypridd ...	Away
23 London Irish ...	Away	25 Berry Hill ...	Away
30 Caerleon ...	Away	Apr. 3 Moseley ...	Home
Dec. 7 Leicester ...	Home	7 Lutonians ...	Away
14 Bath ...	Away	12 Bridgend Sports ...	Away
21 Coventry ...	Home	16 Pontypool ...	Home
28 Newport ...	Home	19 Sale ...	Home
		26 Exeter ...	Away

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### **Lovely weather for Tigers?**

As I start writing these notes, sheets of snow are sailing horizontally past the window, impelled by a Force 34 gale, so all I can do is carry on and hope that whoever is the Patron Saint of Rugby Supporters will have successfully interceded for us before Saturday.

Prayer and meditation certainly seems to have worked for us last season. Looking back over old programmes, I notice that the weather caused the cancellation of the game either side of the equivalent fixture — as this year, London Scottish and Wasps — but allowed our trip to Leicester to go ahead. Which pleased everyone, even if it did result in a 27-6 win for the 'Tigers'.

This restored the balance, because Leicester can't have had many 37-15 defeats as they had when they visited Kingsholm the previous December.

Two years ago, the story was similar. We came away from Leicester on the wrong end of a 30 points to 20 scoreline, but won the game at Kingsholm by a single point in 43, and as I remember, it was a score which accurately reflected the relative merits of the two sides on the day.

Perhaps the scores don't tell the whole story, however. Matches between the two clubs have always been fascinating affairs, where the Gloucester forwards have usually had the edge, even if it has sometimes taken a while for them to establish any domination. On the other hand, the quality of the Leicester back is undoubted — as someone said, "give them an inch and they'll take the length of the pitch."

It should be a good encounter. Leicester have paid us the compliment of selecting a full-strength side, apart from Rory Underwood, and his absence is understandable, with the International coming up next week.

The way the lads have been going lately, they'll need it.

Just to clarify one point. Today's game doesn't feature in the John Smith's National Merit Table, the rules providing that the first fixture between two sides in any season shall be the one to count. That, presumably, means we shall be away to Leicester for next year's Merit Table game.

Home or away, there's something special when the 'Tigers' meet the 'elver Eaters'. It's great to see our feline friends again, and we hope they enjoy their saucers of milk (or something) afterwards.

### **We are the Champions!**

. . . for a while, anyway. It's nice to be able to record that Gloucester, as at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11th are Leaders of the National Merit Table. Terry Tandy has been looking at the figures, and tells me that had Wasps played Harlequins and won, last Saturday, they would have shared that honour with us.

In fact, the next three weeks could go a long way towards settling the Table for the season. As you know, we have two tough hurdles in Wasps and Bristol coming up, after which, we have Nottingham and Headingley, both at home, and a daunting visit to Sale late in the season. So the Wasps and Bristol encounters could have a lot of bearing on things.

Terry also points out that we don't actually get anything for leading the table — just prestige. And who's to say we couldn't do with a bit more of that?

### **Thanks to Sparplas!**

It's always nice to welcome old friends, especially when they have the generosity and good taste to sponsor a game at Kingsholm. It's especially good, therefore to thank Sparplas, and welcome them, and their guests to Kingsholm today.

Things have certainly been happening to our leading door and window replacement specialists since I had the pleasure of writing about them last time. First and foremost, they are now part of the mighty Bowater Group, which should give them plenty of financial elbow-room for development, and job security for their workforce.

The fruits of the new situation are already becoming apparent. They now have thirteen branches, having added offices at Falmouth, Plymouth and Exeter to their portfolio. Knowing David Evans, I am prompted to wonder if the fact that all three are good Rugby towns had anything to do with the selection of new locations.

As if all that weren't enough, Sparplas are about to launch a whole new range of door and window products, featuring a wood-grain finish, which would seem attractive to the more traditionally minded among us.

We aren't the only one to benefit from Sparplas generosity. The firm has also sponsored six leading steeplechases this season.

So they're a very active organisation. And we're glad to have them at Kingsholm once again.



### **Bad luck J.O. Good luck Gloucester**

I don't know about you, but I have a feeling in my water that England may regret the omission of John Orwin from the team to play Wales — even allowing for the absence of Messrs. Norster and Moriarty from the Welsh pack.

Be that as it may, I'd rather see Gloucester taking on Wasps with John than without him, especially as the England selection haven't done our next Merit Table opponents any good at all.

Still — it's very hard luck on the Skipper. Never mind, John. Keep plugging mate.

### **Fivers everywhere**

The Lucky Number programmes for the two holiday games were certainly spread far and wide. In fact, the winners came from anywhere but Gloucester, it seems.

Mr. Furley of 'Eastways', Woodchester, won £5 when he bought programme no. 263 at the Lydney game, Mr. G. Nichols of Barford, Warwickshire had the same good fortune via programme no. 689 at the Moseley match, and Mr. Trunkfield (we think — had doubts about the writing) of Penrith Road, Cheltenham found that 1806 was his lucky number at the same game. On the other hand, the £5 attached to programme no. 418 on Boxing Day didn't go anywhere. It was unclaimed.

### **If you haven't got yours — shout!**

It must have hurt the RFU like crazy to have had to return over £1 million in International ticket application money. Not quite all that was ours, of course, but enough was to make life very difficult for the Club when trying to allocate their minicle resources equitably. However, Terry Tandy tells me that everyone got something, and that all the appropriate letters have been sent out, and that if anyone who applied hasn't heard from him yet, he'd like to hear from them PDQ.

### **John Player Tickets**

On a similar subject, Stand tickets (£2.50) for the keenly anticipated Bristol game in the John Player — two weeks today, would you believe — will be on sale after today's game, from the Caravan behind the main stand.

As you might expect, Bristol has claimed all their permitted allocation, which amounts to one-third of the stand space, so supplies aren't unlimited.

Please remember, also, that John Player Cup matches are 'all pay' by the rules of the competition.

### **The Sting, next week**

Forthcoming events at Kingsholm are so well-known, at the moment, that a run-down is scarcely necessary. Just in case you've been hibernating, however, we have the vital Merit Table game with Wasps next Saturday, Bristol in the Cup the week after that, and on Friday, January 31st, Bristol again in the National Merit Table. It must be a long time since we had three such important fixtures in rapid succession like that. Hope my nerves can stand it.

### **Tailpiece**

I'm grateful to Trevor Cruttwell for bringing me a copy of the excellent programme which Leicester produced for the Gloucester game in December. Among other things, I glean from it that the record between our two clubs now stands at 77 wins to us, and 62 to them. However, that doesn't seem to add up to the 115 matches which are also quoted. Never mind — what's 24 games between friends?

I also note that we seem to spell 'Headingley' with an 'e' while Leicester manage without one. No doubt some exiled Yorkshireman will tell us which is right.

PETER ARNOLD

*Front Cover Cathedral Photograph reproduced by Courtesy of Gloucester City Council.*