

**JOHN SMITH'S  
MERIT TABLES**

# GLOUCESTER V. BRISTOL

FRIDAY  
31st JANUARY, 1986

Kick-off 7 p.m.

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### GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. T. Smith

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan

13. P. Taylor

12. R. McLean

11. T. Ford

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin

9. M. Hannaford

Forwards

1. P. Jones

2. K. White

3. R. Pascall

† 4. J. Orwin (Capt.)

5. J. Brain

6. J. Gadd

7. M. Longstaff

† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

16. R. Williams

17. G. Mann

### BRISTOL

Full Back

A. J. Webb

Three Quarters

† B. A. Morley

C. J. Watson

D. R. Knibbs

E. J. Carr

Half Backs

† F. J. Horton

† G. R. Harding

Forwards

H. P. Stiff

I. K. Borgira

† J. A. Sheppard

K. A. Blackmore

L. N. Pomphrey

M. O. Harries

N. M. Wyatt

O. P. Polledri

REPLACEMENTS

P. P. Jeffrey

Q. W. Hone

Referee: G. HEWITT (London Society)

† International

**Good luck to one special team from another!**



# Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

### **Here we go again!**

As I write, the snow is coming down hard enough to freeze the ballcocks off a brass cistern, so I can only hope that the elements will relent in time for tonight's extravaganza to go ahead. It seems to be the fashion, these days, to produce sequels with numbers after them—e.g. 'Rocky IV' — so perhaps it could be said that 'Bristol II' fits into the same category.

Pretty, it was not, but last Saturday's Cup game was, to anyone who knows their Rugby, as enthralling a match as we have seen all season, and perhaps longer. Gloucester v. Bristol always has been something special; a fact that has not always been appreciated by the pundits. It's rarely an exhibition, having more to do with two sides, consistently among the best in the country, who just happen to be based not much more than half-an-hour's drive away from each other.

It also has to do with tradition, pride and a very healthy respect for the other side's capabilities.

You could say that Gloucester v. Bristol is the equivalent of cricket's 'Roses' match, or soccer's Celtic v. Rangers.

I think that no one would disagree with me when I say that, among just about the hardest fixture list in England, no one is more welcome to Kingsholm than Bristol. If the atmosphere on the field is electric, the atmosphere in the clubhouse is never less than convivial. The fact that our neighbours were only here six days ago has very little to do with anything. And we mustn't forget those Merit Tables.

Nice to see you again chaps. Hardly worth going home, was it?

### **So it's the 'Sarries'!**

I suppose it was well on the cards that we had an away draw in the Cup, this time. On the face of it, we could have had more difficult fixtures — who'd want Bath's job at Moseley — but we mustn't be complacent about things. Sure — we beat Saracens handily enough last season, at somewhere around the same stage, but they're more of a handful on their own turf than they are playing away, and I'm told that they are playing better now than when they were a fraction lucky to get past Coney Hill.

The first thing everyone will want to know about is tickets. That's quite easily answered. There won't be any.

The major reason for that is that the game is only eight days away now, and it isn't every side which has the backup and experience to have tickets printed and distributed as efficiently as Our Mr. Tandy does. The 'Sarries' stand is a bit small, any way.

### **Cheers to British Rail!**

At least, one sort of ticket will be on sale, tonight — thanks to our good friends from British Rail who, at very short notice, have laid on a train to New Southgate station. Tickets will be available after the game — not quite sure where, but probably at the Caravan behind the main stand. Prices will be £8.00 return, £6.00 for Juniors.

The train will leave Gloucester station at around 9.00 calling at Stonehouse and Stroud — listen to the PA system for the exact time — and the journey will take about 3 hours. Departure time will be 6-ish, but again, that is probably not exact.

Obviously, tickets will also be on sale at the station, from now on, and you'd do BR a favour if you could get yours as soon as possible.

British Rail never let us down, and they've turned up trumps again this time. Thanks a lot, lads!

### **Thanks to Telecom**

If BR are good friends of ours, so are BT. British Telecom have been very regular Sponsors, over the past year or two; we're very grateful for that, and extend a hearty welcome to them tonight.

Roger Lindsey has always had a knack of picking good matches to support and this is especially true tonight. The fairly-recent reorganisation of Telecom has split the allegiance of many Telecom people between Gloucester and Bristol, and Martin Mahoney, Customer Service Manager for the Gloucester and Swindon Area, has improved the shining hour by inviting a healthy contingent of colleagues and customers from Bristol, thus including both the Western and Northern Areas of the Severnside District.

As Roger Lindsey says "Half the sponsors" party will be satisfied, whichever way the game goes.

It's a busy time for Telecom. Cellnet mobile phone systems are now fully available in Gloucester, reflecting the huge strides which technology has made since the early days of radiophones.

If you'd like to be in that scene, I would recommend that you trot along to the Crest Hotel between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11th. There, you'll see just how much careful research has gone into the system.

You never know. You might be able to get a running commentary on the game without having to leave the bar!

### **There IS life after JPC**

Everyone is, quite naturally, preoccupied with Cup affairs, at the moment, but there is more to Rugby life than that.

To start with, United are away to Bristol, would you believe, tomorrow, and perhaps you would like to trot down and watch 'Bristol 2½'.

Everyone will have realised by now that the Saracens game has eliminated our proposed visit to sunny Aberavon on February 8th, which is a pity, but ample compensation is available in the shape of the highly-fancied Nottingham side, here on Friday, February 14th. The Saturday after that, we should be receiving a deputation from Liverpool, but see below.

### **Cup dates**

Hope springing eternal in every Elver Eater's breast, I have been asked, once or twice, about the John Player Special Cup dates from here on. Nothing loth, Terry Tandy supplies me with the following information.

Always providing we beat Saracens, we would then be required to fulfill the next round on February 22nd, just two weeks later, so we'll have to await events on that score.

After that, it's a full month until the Semi Final — March 22nd, when oddly enough, we are down to entertain — who else? — Saracens. So it will be a case of further progress or revenge.

The Final isn't until well on in April.

As a footnote, the reason for the long gap in March is that the intervening fortnight — March 8th — is earmarked for the County Semi Final, when, of course, Gloucestershire will be meeting Kent.

Everyone must be wishing 'Sarge's Army' well for that one. We'd love to see Gordon Sargent leading a County Final team down the steps at Twickenham. It would surely be the career high point for the uncompromising prop who Phil Blakeway calls 'The Old Forest Bear'.

### **Got your ticket to Florida yet?**

Don't forget that a modest 50p could put you on the plane to Florida with the touring party in May. All you have to do, is buy a ticket or three in the Draw — all proceeds to the Tour Fund.

Tickets, and much else, are on sale at the Club Shop.

### **Tailpiece**

Did you notice that the Sage of the Daily Mail, Terry O'Connor, remarked, in his piece about the Cup draw, "Gloucester always travel with a few thousand supporters."

No we don't Terry — it just SEEMS like it.

PETER ARNOLD.

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