

# GLOUCESTER V. NEATH

SATURDAY  
12th APRIL, 1986  
Kick-off 3 p.m.



FOUNDED 1873

## GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Kingsholm

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CANON H. M. HUGHES B.A.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p

The Winner of today's  
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52 Eastgate Street, Gloucester

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### GLOUCESTER

(Cherry & White)

Full Back

15. S. Lazenby

Three Quarters

14. D. Morgan  
 13. P. Taylor (Capt.)  
 12. R. McLean  
 11. R. Mogg

Half Backs

10. M. Hamlin  
 9. M. Hannaford

Forwards

- † 1. M. Preedy  
 2. K. White  
 3. P. Jones  
 4. N. Scrivens  
 5. J. Etheridge  
 6. J. Gadd  
 7. M. Longstaff  
 † 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS

- P. Kingston †  
 S. Ashmead

### NEATH

Full Back

15. N. Harris

Three Quarters

14.  
 13. J. Devonald  
 12. S. Powell  
 11. G. Davies

Half Backs

- † 10. P. Thorburn  
 9.

Forwards

1. P. Jackson  
 2. E. Price  
 † 3. S. Evans  
 4. H. Richards  
 † 5. B. Clegg  
 6. P. Pugh  
 7. L. Jones (Capt.)  
 8. M. Jones

REPLACEMENTS

- R. Hughes

Referee: B. ABRAHAMS (E. Mids Society)

† International

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



# Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire



### **Outlook Not All Black**

Just about this time last season, a few of us made the trek to Neath. It was an 'orrible day, with the wind howling straight down the pitch at a rate of knots which was quite likely to take the ball back over the kickers head, if he happened to be playing into it. We weren't, therefore, expecting all that much of the game.

We were wrong. The home side refused to allow the elements, or the imminent end of the season, to deter them from laying on a highly entertaining display, running the ball from everywhere. It should also be said that Mr. Clive Norling, taking over at the last minute, provided an exhibition of refereeing that contributed greatly to the game, and which could have been, with advantage, watched by some other referees of our acquaintance.

Neath swamped us in the first ten minutes, running in two tries, one of them helped by a fortuitous gust of wind. After that, Gloucester rather more than held their own, but the damage had been done.

We came away from The Gnoll quite convinced that Neath were fundamentally a young team with a big future. Nothing that has happened since has changed my opinion, at least.

So we lost that one, but we won the game the last time Neath were here. Today, therefore, could be termed as something of a decider.

Sorry to see that Jonathan Davies has done a hamstring, which looks likely to keep him out of today's little get together, even if his commitments elsewhere weren't so heavy. Never mind — if I know Neath, they'll have a more than adequate replacement.

The other thing that was so good about our safari to Neath was the sheer good fellowship and hospitality which we encountered. It's up to us to see that we can match them in that department, as well as on the field.

I'm sure we will, and will simply add that we couldn't wish to see a more welcome bunch than Neath, just when we're beginning to witness the last rites of one of the most contradictory seasons that I can remember.

Have a great visit, chaps.

### **Dig Deep!**

We may have the Welsh All Blacks with us today, but you'll agree that Kingsholm wouldn't be the same without our own 'Black-and-Whites'. Which is a sneaky way of leading up to the fact that today is the day when our old friends from the St. John's Ambulance Brigade hold their annual collection.

I don't have to tell you how valuable the Brigade's services are to us. They've saved a good many players a lot of pain and grief, over the years, and I expect their services could be at your disposal, too, if you were to be taken suddenly drunk at half-time.

So I'll ask you to be especially generous when the bucket arrives. And while doing so, I'll say a public 'Thanks' to all the St. Johns fellows who have been such a familiar sight in these parts for so many years.

Let's face it — we'd be lost without them.

### **Combination Cups**

One of the peculiarities of our local rugby scene, when compared with some other areas, is that Gloucester RFC isn't regarded as the only Gloucester club worth watching. And that's a strength in itself.

You'll be interested, therefore, in the dates of the Combination Cup Finals. They are: Senior Final on Thursday, April 24th; Junior Final on Tuesday, April 29th. Both here at Kingsholm, both kick off at 7.00 p.m.

Of course, we don't know who the various Finalists will be, as yet, but indications at the moment are that it's going to be a pair of good teams who lift the trophies. Why not come along?

### **John Smith's Merit Table**

I now have the official information on the position at the head of the John Smith's National merit Table 'A', as at March 29th. As far as I can see, Bristol's win over Harlequins last Saturday is nice for them, but doesn't alter the issue at the top of the table.



It's now a two-horse race, with ourselves in the lead, and Nottingham coming up on the rails. At the moment, Gloucester has won 7 out of 8 matches, and Nottingham has won 5 out of 6. That gives us 87.50% and Nottingham 83.33%.

Only two matches remain which can affect the issue: Sale v. Gloucester on April 19th, and Nottingham v. Bristol on May 3rd.

If we win at Sale next Saturday, the Table is ours. If we don't, then our percentage goes down to 77.78 in that case, it will all depend on the Nottingham v. Bristol game. If the Midlanders win, they also take the Table, with 85.71%. If our old mates from down the A38 do a job on them — as they well could after the Harlequins result — then Nottingham goes down to 71.43%, and we still win.

As a matter of interest, if we draw at Sale, our percentage will be 83.33, and the whole thing will still hinge on Nottingham v. Bristol.

Summing up, for people who get migraines when confronted with arithmetic, the only way we can be safe is for us to win at Sale. If we don't — then it's up to Bristol.

### **End of Term Frolics**

Having got the mathematics out of the way, you can see what a thriller the Sale game, next Saturday, is going to be. Obviously, the lads, who on the evidence of the Moseley game, are running back into form, are going to need all the support they can get.

Before you ask, there will be a coach, and I suggest you contact John Beaman as soon as you can.

Of course, you could lubricate your vocal chords in anticipation by coming along to see United take on Pontypool on Wednesday evening next, which should be worth watching. For that matter, Sale's second string, right here next Saturday, could be a fair compensation for not being able to trek north to the senior game.

After that, we have Exeter at Kingsholm on April 26th (sponsors and advertisers please note), and don't forget the 'extra' game against Bath, away, on May 3rd. Plus of course, the respective Uniteds at Kingsholm on the same day.

### **Complex**

Don't forget that you don't have to forsake Kingsholm altogether when the season is over. Members can hire the Complex, at very advantageous rates, for such things as anniversaries, retirements, seductions, or whatever turns you on. With the approval of the Committee, of course.

Have a word with Terry Tandy about details.

### **Did You Ever Hear the Like?**

One happy little relaxation might interest you. It takes place on the day after the Bath game — Sunday May 4th. The very idea might make some members choke and fall into their beer, but the fact remains that the Cotswold Boars American Football will be entertaining Cardiff, right here, on the sacred turf, on that day. TV has prompted a lot of support for the gridiron game, and while I doubt if it will be a Superbowl, it might be worth seeing, in a gruesome sort of way.

Gloucester v. Cardiff at Kingsholm, playing American Football? And an Evangelical Rally in June?

What is the world coming to?

### **Tailpiece**

A pair of shouts heard at Moseley last Saturday.

Birmingham voice: "Oh! for \*\*\*\*'s sake! We haven't seen a worse ref. all season!"

Gloucester voice: "Don't worry ref. We have!"

PETER ARNOLD.

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