

GLOUCESTER V. EXETER

SATURDAY
26th APRIL, 1986
Kick-off 3 p.m.



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
£5 from

Tyre Sales
Tyre Sales (Bham) Ltd.
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GLOUCESTER *64 (42)* (Cherry & White)

Full Back
15. T. Smith *8 conv*

Three Quarters
14. D. Morgan *4 tries*
13. P. Taylor *2 tries*
12. R. McLean *1 try*
11. R. Mogg *2 tries*

Half Backs
10. M. Hamlin
9. R. Williams

Forwards
† 1. M. Preedy *1 try*
2. K. White
3. P. Jones *1 try*
† 4. J. Orwin (Capt.)
5. J. Etheridge *1 try*
6. R. Fowke
7. M. Longstaff
† 8. M. Teague

REPLACEMENTS
J. Breeze
D. Burn

Referee: G. DAVIES (Liverpool Society)

EXETER *0 (6)*

Full Back
15. S. Phillips

Three Quarters
14. P. Drewitt
13. J. Tutchings
12. G. Stratton
11. J. Bunce

Half Backs
10. S. Winman
9. P. Lander

Forwards
1. K. Northcott
2. A. Horton
3. T. Harris
4. G. Fisher
5. J. Barlett
6. D. Hartland
7. M. Cathery
8. G. Best (Capt.)

REPLACEMENTS
L. Fowler
M. Budgedd

† International

Good luck to one special team from another!



Richard Cound

BMW in Gloucestershire

Last of the Winter Wine

With all the respect in the world, the arrival of Exeter is one event we greet with very mixed feelings. Not that the Devon lads aren't at least as welcome as any other team who visits Kingsholm, but the occasion does herald the end of the Season, and looking at it from here, September does seem an unconscionable long time hence. Not that you'd know it by the weather.

One nice thing about end-of-term games, however, is that the tumult and the shouting has died, just about everything that is everything has been decided, and to that extent, all everyone wants to see is a simple, good game of rugby. The result of the match is, if not secondary, then as close to that as it ever comes.

One does have to admit that Exeter haven't won very often at Kingsholm in recent years, although I do remember an occasion when a loss at Exeter virtually kept us out of the following season's John Player. Nevertheless, everyone always likes to see today's visitors, such old and valued opponents that the Kingsholm scene wouldn't be the same without them. Even if we are riding high in the National Merit Table, it would be a poor day when that sort of consideration prevented such fixtures as we have today.

One way and another, we couldn't have a better bunch to help us ring in the end of one of the most contradictory seasons which most of us can remember.

Hope you enjoy everything as much as we intend to, lads.

Welcome Sponsors

By tradition which must go back at least two years now, today is the day when we welcome that stalwart band of generous companies and organisations who have supported the Club this season by way of sponsorship and advertising. Everyone from the Club President to the youngest regular supporter, has reason to be grateful for such support, because the total financial contribution which it provides is, nowadays, very substantial, and is, naturally, ploughed into the Club and its facilities.

It's pleasing to note that demand for such sponsorship grows every year, until now, Peter Denham (whom God preserve) has problems fitting everyone in. Similarly, we couldn't take more programme advertising without an entire re-vamp and, probably, a more expensive piece of reading for supporters like you.

Many of the companies involved do so purely for the love of the game in general and Gloucester RFC in particular, but the continuing demand would seem to argue that sponsors do find a commercial advantage in their support. We hope so, anyway.

So — a sincere vote of thanks to all of you, gentlemen. You're a great help.

We Did It!

Surely everyone in the Solar System (except, apparently, certain sections of the National Press) must know by now that Gloucester has won the 'A' section of the John Smith's National Merit Table — and did it in style with an emphatic win over the tough Sale side, on their own patch, at that.

Ironic isn't it. We were the first winners of what later became the John Player Special Cup, and have now achieved an inimitable 'double' by taking the honours in the first-ever National Merit Table. Whatever happens, they can't take that away from us.

For me, one of the most pleasing things about the whole affair is the way that a whole galaxy of young players — most of them unregarded at the start of the season — have stepped into the breach when called upon to do so, and acquitted themselves admirably.

You know the names as well as I do. In no particular order, Messrs, Etheridge, Williams, McLean, Ford, Lazenby, Bennett . . . and I'm sure to have forgotten someone at that.

It all augurs very well for the future of Gloucester RFC. We've always known we were the best team in England, and now everyone else does too. Or should.

Well done everyone. It's magnificent compensation for the John Player debacle — but I honestly believe we could have won both. Next year, perhaps?

Quote, Unquote

Hark to the wisdom of England Coach, Martin Green, as reported in last weekend's 'Sunday Express'. Talking about today's JPC Final, he said: "You have to use your successful club teams as a base for the national side."

Couldn't agree more, Mr. Green. And I'd point out that, not only have Gloucester won the National Merit Table, but also beaten all four Cup Semi Final sides this season. So just how do you measure a 'successful team'?

One More To Go

Just one last gasp. We are away to Bath, next Saturday. Which could be a showpiece, because if the Somerset boys win today — and having seen Wasps here, I'm not predicting the walkover which some pundits seem to expect — then it will be the Merit Table winners against the Cup winners. Rather, in Soccer terms, like the FA Cup Winners playing the League First Division Champions.

All of which means that the boys could do with your support. Why not trot down to Bath next Saturday?

Globe-Trotting Marcus

Congratulations to Marcus Hannaford, unhappily not playing today, on his thoroughly-deserved selection for the England 'B' tour of Italy.

The whole team is interesting, because the Selectors seem to have chosen more senior players than usual for this tour, obviously with next season and the World Cup in mind. Presumably, they had to do something following the failure of selection via the (now surely discredited) Divisional Championship route.

But only two scrum halves are going. Marcus and Bath's Richard Hill. Does this, I ask myself, mean that Marcus is now England's No. 2?

But that's just the start for the latest Hannaford. He'll fly from Heathrow with the England 'B' party, play in Italy, and then fly directly to Florida to join the Gloucester tour, having missed just one match.

I've heard of doing a lap of the pitch, but this is ridiculous.

And Best of Luck . . .

. . . to the Florida Tourists on their travels. Hope everyone has a great time, and we all wish we were with you, Especially me.

Actually, this could be one Gloucester tour which actually starts with a few hangovers. The lads fly out the day following the Dinner, sponsored by John Smith's, which will mark Gloucester's success in the Merit Table. The President of the Rugby Football Union will be there.

Hardly worth going home really . . .

Thanks . . .

. . . to everyone who has worked so hard, as ever, to give us such a memorable season. I'm not going to attempt to list them, but they will all know that the thanks are none the less sincere for that.

Tailpiece

Norman Partridge, lucky b****r, has just returned from the Hong Kong Sevens. Naturally, he has a host of stories, and the one I liked concerned the final parade, when the players circle the stadium waving farewell.

Apparently, by tradition, the referees bring up the rear. This year they did so wearing dark glasses and carrying white sticks.

I'd call that a friendly gesture, wouldn't you?

Have a good Summer.

PETER ARNOLD.

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